WEDNESDAY
April 19, 2023

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CM VS GOVERNOR

T.N., Kerala unite over gubernatorial delay

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India must not open up for foreign carriers

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In political scene, a case for collaborative efforts

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ON A ROLL

MI's all-round effort shades Sunrisers

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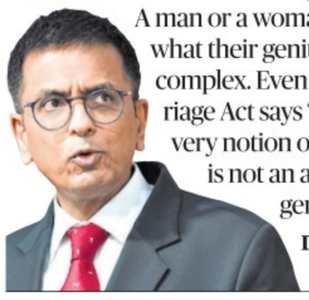
Same-sex union: SC to see if Special Marriage Act can be deemed gender-neutral

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI



> There is no absolute concept of a man or an absolute concept of a woman at all... A man or a woman is not a definition of what their genitals are, it is far more complex. Even when the Special Marriage Act says 'man' and 'woman', the very notion of a man and a woman is not an absolute on what genitals you have.
>
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**
> Chief Justice of India

The Supreme Court on Tuesday cut short the Union government's "value judgment" that genitals decided whether a person was a man or a woman, saying there was no "absolute concept of a man or an absolute concept of a woman" and that gender was "far more complex" than one's genitals.

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud was responding to the Centre's argument that laws, including the Special Marriage Act, recognised only heterosexual marriages between a "biological man and a biological woman".

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, leading the arguments for the petitioners who are seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriages through a broader reading of the Special Marriage Act by interpreting it as gender-neutral, said the petitions were not delving into the personal laws of religions, but only seeking a wider interpretation of the Act to include same-sex marriages.

The court said it was proceeding on an "incremental canvas" in the case. "Incremental changes in issues of societal ramifications is a better course to take. We will not step into personal laws. We will only examine if the Special Marriage Act can be interpreted in a manner to make it gender-neutral. Period," Justice S.K. Kaul on the Bench said.

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RELATED REPORTS
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It's Bilkis today, it can be anybody tomorrow: SC

'What were the standards you applied for the remission,' Justice K.M. Joseph asks the Centre and Gujarat who refused to submit files on the remission of 11 convicts in gang-rape and murder case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's view that they are in contempt did not faze the Centre and Gujarat, which brought the official files concerning the remission granted to 11 life convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang rape case to the courtroom on Tuesday, only to jointly claim privilege over the contents.

Appearing before a Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna, Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju said he had "instructions" that the Centre and the State were "considering" a review petition against a March 27 order of the top court to be "ready with the relevant files regarding the grant of remission" on April 18. The court explained it was important for it to examine the records to see whether the State government had independently applied its mind to all the relevant factors before granting remission to 11 men sentenced to life imprisonment for the gang rape of Bilkis Bano and the "horrendous mass murder" of her family members during the 2002 riots.

"Today it is this lady, tomorrow it can be me or you... What were the standards you applied for the remission? Same standards should apply to all. What happens to my brother and sister should be of great concern to me," Justice Joseph told Mr. Raju, appearing for both the Centre and Gujarat.

Mr. Raju said the State had indeed applied its mind but was claiming privilege (exemption from disclosing information).

"Are you saying the State government has immunity from producing the documents in court? Documents have been shown to us in even graver matters of national concern...," Justice Joseph noted.

CONTINUED ON
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Supreme Court vs Gujarat govt.

March 27: SC directs Centre and Gujarat to be 'ready with the relevant files regarding the grant of remission' to Bilkis Bano case convicts

April 18: After seeking time to complete pleadings and citing incomplete translation of records, Centre and Gujarat inform court that they are 'seeking review of the March 27 order' and claiming privilege

> Are you saying the State government has immunity from producing the documents in court? Documents have been shown to us in even graver matters of national concern... If you cannot show reasons [for remission], we will draw our own conclusions
>
> **- JUSTICE K.M. JOSEPH**

NEARBY

Shettar trains guns on Santhosh

BELAGAVI
Former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who quit BJP to join the Congress, believes that he was denied BJP ticket to contest the Assembly election by the machinations of party national general secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh, who wanted to groom his supporters. » Page 6

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

Congress fields Savanur against Bommai in Shiggaon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress has fielded Mohammed Yousuf Savanur against Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in Shiggaon constituency of Haveri district.

In 2008, 2013, and 2018 too, the Congress had fielded a minority candidate in Shiggaon.

Mr. Savanur is president of Anjuman-e-Islam, Hubballi-Dharwad. The constituency has a significant number of voters from the Muslim community. Sources claimed that there were over 70,000 minority voters in the constituency.

Mr. Savanur is the lone Muslim candidate to be fielded in the districts of Dharwad, Gadag, and Haveri. With this, the Congress has fielded 15 candidates belonging to the Muslim community.

In 2018, the Congress fielded Sayed Azeempeer Khadri, and Mr. Bommai won the election by a margin of over 9,000 votes.

In the fourth list of seven candidates announced by the Congress on Tuesday, it denied ticket to incumbent MLA S. Ramappa in Harihar and fielded a fresh candidate, Nandagavi Srinivas.

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India, Russia agree to deepen trade and economic relations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and Russia discussed "trade deficit" during the India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC). The meeting on Tuesday was co-chaired by Denis Manturov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry from Russia, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

"The sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral trade and economic relationship, and agreed to work together to unlock its full potential including addressing the trade deficit and market access issues," the MEA's press note read.

Speaking at a business event organised by the FICCI on Monday, Mr. Manturov flagged the issue of payments in bilateral trade that had deepened in the backdrop of the Western sanctions on Russia.

Apart from interacting with Mr. Jaishankar, the Russian Minister also met Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. "The visit is in continuation of the regular high-level dialogue between the two Sides," the note said.

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NIA takes over Kozhikode train arson case, invokes UAPA section in the FIR

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) took over the investigation in the Kozhikode train arson case on Tuesday. The agency re-registered the case, being investigated by the State police, and filed a first information report (FIR) before an NIA special court here on Tuesday.

The NIA has taken up the case after the Central government categorised the arson as a scheduled offence under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008. The gravity of the offence and its ramifications on national security require a probe by the NIA, the agency noted.

Shahrukh Saifi, the prime suspect in the Kozhikode train arson case, being brought out of a court in Kozhikode on Tuesday. K. RAGESH

The agency noted that at 9 p.m. on April 2, the accused Shahrukh Saifi poured some inflammable liquid on passengers on the D1 coach of the Alappuzha-Kannur Executive Express when the train was on the Korappuzha bridge after crossing the Elathur station and set the train on fire. The accused had done so to kill the passengers and cause damage to the train, besides creating fear in the minds of the public. Three terrified passengers, including a child, who jumped off the moving train to escape the fire died. A few other passengers were injured and the train coach was damaged in the fire, the agency noted.

According to the agency, the available information indicated that the accused carried out the arson using an inflammable liquid-.These actions attracted Section 16 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the NIA noted in the FIR.

Meanwhile, Saifi was shifted to a high-security jail at Viyyur in Thrissur. The court put off hearing on his bail application to Wednesday.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Passenger traffic at Bengaluru airport increases in FY23

96 In percentage. Traffic jumped to 21.91 million in FY2022-23 from 16.28 million in the previous year, according to the Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL). Domestic traffic grew 85.2% while international traffic rose over three-fold. PTI

Sugar production declines due to scarcity of sugercanes

5.4 In percentage. Indian mills produced 31.1 million tonnes of sugar till April 15 of the 2022-23 marketing year ending September, the Indian Sugar Mills Association informed. 400, out of 532 mills that operated, have closed down. REUTERS

India must raise maize output in the next five years to meet demand

44-45 In million tonnes. Union agriculture secretary Manoj Ahuja informed that while maize production in India at present stood at 33-34 million tonnes, production must be increased amid growing demand. PTI

China's consumption boosts GDP growth in first quarter of 2023

4.5 In percentage. The government informed that China's economic growth in the first quarter (January to March) of 2023 compared to 2022 outpaced the 2.9% growth in the previous quarter. The growth was attributed to rising consumption. PTI

The amount fetched by 300 T-Rex skeletons in an auction

5.3 In $ million. Nearly 300 Tyrannosaurus rex bones were assembled into a single skeleton and sold. Standing with an open-mouth pose, the skeleton measured 11.6 meters long and 3.9 meters high. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Nagaland's municipal tightrope

How is Nagaland caught between the Supreme Court and community-based organisations on reservation of seats to women in local body elections? What are the special provisions granted by Article 371A of the Constitution to Nagaland? Has a local body election ever taken place in the State?

EXPLAINER

Rahul Karmakar

The story so far:

On March 28, the Neiphiu Rio-led Nagaland government preferred to be in contempt of the Supreme Court than face the wrath of the community-based organisations by repealing the Nagaland Municipal Act of 2001. This led to the cancellation of the State Election Commission's March 9 notification for holding elections to Nagaland's 39 urban local bodies (ULBs) with 33% of the seats reserved for women. The apex court has however, stayed the notification cancelling the civic body polls. It was in this year, for the first time, that Nagaland elected two women to power in the recent Assembly elections.

Why is there opposition to ULB polls?

Nagaland is arguably the only State where ULB seats are not reserved for women as mandated by clause IV of the 74th Amendment to the Constitution of India. Most of the traditional tribal and urban organisations oppose the 33% reservation of seats for women as they argue that such reservation would violate the special provisions granted by Article 371A of the Constitution to Nagaland. The Article states that no Act of Parliament would apply to the religious or social practices of the Nagas, Naga customary law and procedure, administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Naga customary law, and ownership and transfer of land and its resources. The hohos (apex tribal bodies) point out that women have traditionally not been part of decision-making bodies.

Have such polls ever been held in Nagaland?

The first and only civic body election in Nagaland was held in 2004 without any reservation of seats for women. The State government amended the 2001 Municipal Act in 2006 to include 33% reservation for women in line with the 74th Amendment. This triggered widespread opposition

The Kohima Municipal Council in Nagaland. KMC.NAGALAND.GOV.IN

forcing the government to indefinitely postpone the ULB polls in 2009. Efforts to hold the elections in March 2012 met with strong protests and in September 2012, the State Assembly passed a resolution to exempt Nagaland from Article 243T of the Constitution which is related to the reservation for women. This resolution was revoked in November 2016 and elections to the civic bodies with 33% reservation were notified a month later. The notification led to widespread mayhem in which two people were killed in large-scale violence and arson.

This made the government declare the process to conduct election null and void in February 2017.

Why did the govt. decide on ULB polls this time?

Under pressure from the Supreme Court, the Rio government laid the ground for holding ULB polls after consultations with various stakeholders, including churches, NGOs, and tribal bodies in March 2022. The State Election Commission on March 9 notified that the polls would take place on May 16. The tribal bodies and civil society organisations threatened to boycott the polls until the "borrowed" Municipal Act of 2001 factoring in women's reservation is "reviewed and rewritten in complete consonance of the voice of the Naga people" so that it does not infringe upon Article 371A. The government succumbed to public pressure and repealed the Municipal Act with immediate effect as the people "cannot be compelled" to participate in the elections.

What is the way forward?

The groups against reservation for women want a "guarantee" that the 33% quota would not violate the provisions of Article 371A. Before "rushing to conduct" the ULB elections, they suggested that the duration of the reservation should be capped at two tenures and demanded that the post of chairperson should not be reserved for women. The Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) said that the State government erred in not listening to or consulting with women's organisations before taking the decision to repeal the Municipal Act.

On April 17, the Supreme Court pulled up the Nagaland government for adopting an "ingenious method" of repealing the Municipal Act to evade the undertaking given to the court for holding the polls.

The apex court also noted "nothing has so far emerged (with respect to Article 371A) to advance a plea that religious or social practices of Nagas or Naga customary law and procedure denies the right of equality to women insofar as the participatory process is concerned in such elections".

THE GIST

- On March 28, the Neiphiu Rio-led Nagaland government repealed the Nagaland Municipal Act of 2001. This led to the cancellation of the State Election Commission's March 9 notification for holding elections to Nagaland's 39 urban local bodies (ULBs) with 33% of the seats reserved for women.
- Most of the traditional tribal and urban organisations oppose the 33% reservation of seats for women as they argue that such reservation would violate the special provisions granted by Article 371A of the Constitution to Nagaland.
- The Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) said that the State government erred in not listening to or consulting with women's organisations before taking the decision to repeal the Municipal Act.

What are the latest developments in Yemen?

How did a prisoner swap come about between the two warring sides in Yemen? How many prisoners were released? Was this originally agreed upon in the 2018 Stockholm Agreement?

Priyali Prakash

The story so far:

Hundreds of prisoners captured during the war in Yemen were reunited with their families between April 14 to 16 amid diplomatic efforts to halt the conflict, the *Associated Press* reported. The main warring sides in Yemen are the Iran-backed Houthis and the pro-Yemen government, Saudi-led coalition.

How did the prisoner swap happen?

The two opposing sides had in March agreed to release 887 detainees after a ten-day meeting in Switzerland. The parties also agreed to meet again in May to discuss more such releases, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a press statement.

Flights of the ICRC carried 869 of the released detainees to six cities in Saudi Arabia and Yemen. An additional 104 detainees were released from Saudi Arabia to Yemen on Monday. The large-scale prisoner swap has given the people hope for a permanent ceasefire in Yemen.

What is the Stockholm Agreement?

The warring parties in control of parts of Yemen had signed the Stockholm Agreement in December 2018 whereby they had committed to freeing conflict-related detainees. The agreement brokered by the United Nations had three main components – the Hudayah agreement, the prisoner exchange agreement, and the Taïz agreement.

The Hudayah agreement included a ceasefire in the city of Hodeidah and other clauses like no military reinforcements in the city and strengthened UN presence. In November 2018, hundreds of people were killed in clashes in Hodeidah, an important port in Yemen, when government loyalists supported by a Saudi-led coalition launched an attack to oust the Iran-backed Houthi rebels from the Red Sea city.

The Taïz agreement includes the formation of a joint committee with participation from civil society and the UN.

How did the war in Yemen begin?

The conflict in Yemen began in 2011 as part of the Arab Spring protests. President Ali Abdullah Saleh was forced to hand over power to his deputy, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi. Mr. Hadi found himself faced with an insurmountable task of tackling Yemen's economic and security problems. The Houthis, backed by Iran, took advantage of Mr. Hadi's weak control and captured the Saada province in the north, and then Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, in 2014.

The thought of Iran-backed Houthis in control of Yemen bothered neighbouring Saudi Arabia due to its differences with Iran. Saudi Arabia then led a coalition that included other Arab countries and sent troops to Yemen in 2015. However, they were unable to oust Houthis from Sana'a as well as from the north of the country.

The war has continued since then and has only ceased once in April 2022, when the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition announced a two-month ceasefire ahead of Ramzan, the holy month of Islam. This was Yemen's first nationwide truce in six years, *Deutsche Welle* reported.

How has this affected Yemen?

According to the UN, Yemen is now the largest humanitarian crisis in the world with 80% of its population dependent on aid and protection. Over three million people have been displaced from their homes since 2015, and public service sectors like healthcare, water, sanitation, and education have either collapsed or are in a dire situation. Economically too, Yemen is in the trenches. It has lost $90 billion in economic output and more than 6,00,000 people have lost their jobs. More than half of the country's population is living in extreme poverty.

THE GIST

- The warring parties in control of parts of Yemen had signed the Stockholm Agreement in December 2018 whereby they had committed to freeing conflict-related detainees.
- The two opposing sides had in March agreed to release 887 detainees after a ten-day meeting in Switzerland.
- According to the UN, Yemen is now the largest humanitarian crisis in the world with 80% of its population dependent on aid and protection.

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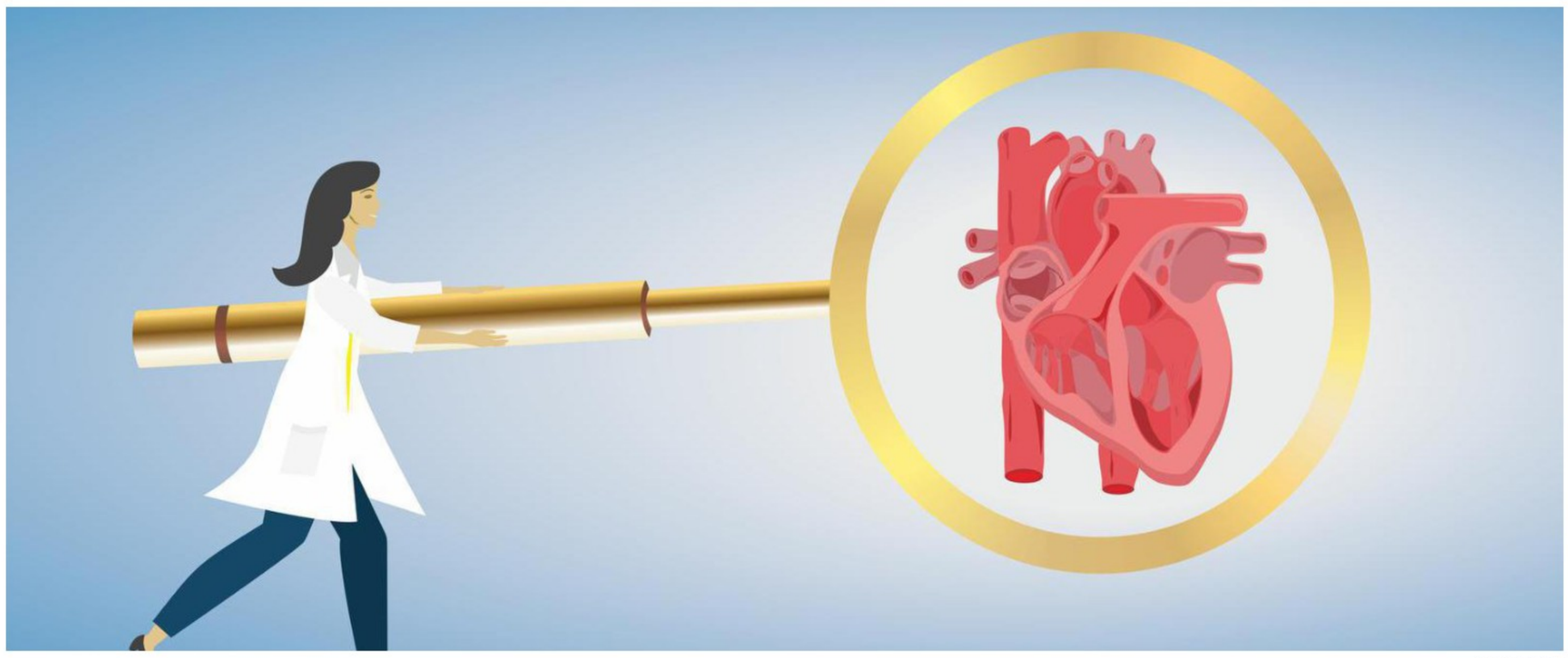

ISTOCKPHOTO

Should universal screening tests be mandated to detect early heart disease?

There is no doubt that regular health check-ups or screening tests are an important strategy to prevent heart ailments. The key questions are who should be screened, using what test and how often. Two doctors weigh in on the debate around large-scale screening for heart disease detection

Anand Krishnan
Ambuj Roy

A spurt of reports of sudden deaths has led to a lot of apprehension among the public. The water has been further muddied by suggestions of CT scans as a screening test in all including those fit, active, and otherwise healthy.

There is no doubt that regular health check-ups or screening tests are an important strategy to prevent heart ailments. The key questions are who should be screened, using what test and how often. We discuss the principles involved and the choice of appropriate tests in such decisions.

Screening the heart

Sudden deaths (dying within 24 hours of symptoms) are typically caused by heart attacks, heart rhythm abnormalities or strokes. Ischemia or the reduction in blood flow to the heart occurs when the artery supplying it is blocked due to fat deposit. This could be sudden as in a heart attack, where a blood clot forms over a mild blockage or, as is more common, a slow insidious build up leading to pain in the chest with physical activity. The former is a life-threatening condition needing immediate attention, while the latter is a more benign condition that can be managed with medicines and sometimes stents or surgery.

The main purpose of any test for screening or early detection is to pick up people with probable disease and confirm it with another test. Screening tests are usually cheap and easy to operate on a large-scale while confirmatory tests are resource intensive. All screening tests, and for that matter any test, are recommended based on a risk-benefit analysis. All tests carry risks and doing them, especially in healthy individuals in large numbers (prerequisite for a screening test), needs to be carefully looked at.

A point to be noted is that all tests, to a varying degree, misclassify persons with disease as non-diseased. These misclassifications have implications. For a screening test, we usually err on the side of higher sensitivity (wherein we accept errors that label a person without disease as diseased but not the other way). This is because labeling a person with a disease as healthy gives that person a false sense of security and has legal implications as well. Also, screening tests are not one-time tests and would need repetition at a frequency which is dependent on the speed of development of the disease.

The common tests available to us for diagnosis of heart ailments are electrocardiograms (ECGs), echocardiography, exercise or stress tests and angiography.

ECG, a very useful test to diagnose acute heart attacks, has a limited role in detecting a future heart attack. Echocardiography tells us about the pumping capacity of the heart muscles and functioning of the heart valves but does not tell us about vessel blockages. The exercise tests (commonly known as TMT), where an ECG, echocardiography or radionuclide test is done after exercise and putting the heart under "stress", can suggest presence of heart blockages. The different stress tests have varying accuracy with that of echocardiography and radionuclide tests being higher than that of an exercise ECG. Next are imaging studies where we directly visualise the arteries of the heart for blockages. Initially only possible by inserting tubes into the body, current CT scanning technology allows them to be done non-invasively with acceptable accuracy.

Which is appropriate?

The choice of a screening test for large-scale use is based on an assessment of risks, benefits, cost, and pragmatic parameters. The risks include risk of procedure as well as false labeling. For example, stress ECG when done as a screening test in young asymptomatic patients gives many false positives. This leads to unnecessary anxiety and more unwarranted tests to confirm or reject its findings. This does not mean that these tests are useless, only that they are not appropriate for mass-screening of heart blockages. The stress echocardiography/radionuclide test and CT angiography have acceptable accuracy and can detect blockages and thus, individuals at higher risk for future cardiac events. But the proof of the pudding is in eating it, as they say.

A large Danish study published last year showed that a population well treated for risk factors for heart disease derived no benefit from additional tests including CT scans. An earlier large-scale study done in individuals with diabetes and at high risk for heart ailments as well as silent blockages, predisposing them to sudden catastrophic outcomes, also did not reveal any benefit of doing a screening CT angiography in all. Both studies clearly revealed that treating traditional risks for heart disease is sufficient.

The practical side

In the Indian context, about 25-30% (350-400 million people) of Indians are above 40 years. These imaging tests are not available in most district hospitals in India and even in some medical colleges. Moreover, these tests cost around ₹6,000 to ₹15,000 in the public or private sector. Therefore, before we consider going in for such a program we need to ask ourselves how these tests will be made available to the bulk of the population; whether our health system is ready to cater to those who test positive on these tests; whether we are ready to deal with the small but definite risks, including radiation exposure, of these tests when millions of healthy people are subjected to it and whether governments should invest in the programme.

Taking this into consideration, we see that neither the evidence nor practical considerations support the recommendation of performing CT scans in healthy adults to prevent sudden cardiac deaths. Large-scale CT angiography particularly leads to what in cardiology parlance is called "occulo-stenotic" reflex, that is, unnecessary stents and surgeries for individuals who could have been managed as well with medicines alone.

The road ahead

However, this does not mean that we do not take advantage of excellent modern medical tools. What we need to do is to improve the risk or cost-benefit ratio. This can be done by using these tests in a smaller set of people who have a higher risk of having an ischemic heart disease. High-risk can be determined by screening for known risk factors such as tobacco use, obesity, hypertension, diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, and family history of early heart disease. These tests are cheap, part of standard executive checkups and available at district hospitals. Reducing the cost of testing with CT angiography (less people tested) and increasing efficiency (more of those tested will have disease), will result in a favourable cost-benefit ratio.

Our primary approach for preventing cardiac deaths must be to promote healthy habits among populations of all ages. Additionally, all adults can be screened for these risk factors and counseled towards a healthy lifestyle and where needed, be treated with medicines. There is no evidence that any tests done beyond these simple ones prevent heart-attacks or sudden deaths.

So, individuals who want their fears of sudden death to be allayed, follow your physician's advice and reduce your risk. This evidence based approach is the "best" current strategy to prevent several premature deaths, without medicalisation of the society and without proving Aldous Huxley right when he said that "Medical science has made such tremendous progress that there is hardly a healthy human left".

Dr. Anand Krishnan is Professor of Community Medicine and Dr. Ambuj Roy is Professor of Cardiology at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed's son Asad and his associate Ghulam were killed in an 'encounter' on April 13. Here is a quiz on alleged 'encounters' in India

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

The first recorded encounter killing in Andhra Pradesh was of a local hero in the Rampa Rebellion of 1922. This revolutionary waged an armed campaign against the British colonial rule in India. What is the name of the person? A 2022 Telugu film, showcased the life of this hero. Identify the film.

QUESTION 2

He was an Indian underworld don in Mumbai. In 1982, he took a taxi to Wadala and was killed in an alleged encounter there. His life inspired the 1990 Bollywood blockbuster movie, starring Amitabh Bachchan, as Vijay Dinanath. What is the name of the underworld don? What is the name of the film?

QUESTION 3

This is a criminal case in Gujarat where the person was taken away by the police when travelling on a public bus with his wife, in 2005. He was killed three days later near Ahmedabad. One of the current Union Ministers was accused and acquitted in the case. Identify the person who was killed. Name the Minister.

QUESTION 4

This Delhi Police operation resulted in the deaths of two terrorists and one police officer, following five serial blasts in 2008. What is the name of the 'encounter' case?

Visual question:

Identify the person on the left who was killed in an encounter in 2004. Who is the person on the right, shaking hands with the former?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Apart from the Taj Mahal, the other three properties from India which were given the UNESCO World Heritage Status in 1983. **Ans: Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, and the Agra Fort**
2. Begun in AD 122, this structure bears the name of the ruler who commissioned it. **Ans: Hadrian's Wall**
3. This construction in an European capital has a quadriga on its top. **Ans: Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.**
4. The English name for Rapa Nui and the South American country which has sovereignty over it. **Ans: Easter Island and Chile**
5. The purpose of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. **Ans: It is a campanile or a bell tower**
6. The third structure, out of the ones built for Menkaure and Khafre, which was built for this person. **Ans: The Great Pyramid of Giza and Khufu**
7. This city hosts the Topkapi Palace. **Ans: Istanbul**
Visual: This WHS was featured in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.* Ans: **The treasury at Petra, Jordan**
Early Birds: C. Saravanan| Shubhkaramdeep Singh| Rashmi Rekha Dash| Indra Sharma

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Miss Suneetha, SRKR Engineering College, Bhimavaram, wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'to pull the chestnuts out of the fire'."

" 'To pull the chestnuts out of the fire' means 'to get someone out of a difficulty'. The allusion is to the story of a monkey who wanted to get some roasted chestnuts from the fire and persuaded his friend, a cat, to use its paws to get the chestnuts out of the fire. The cat pulled the chestnuts from the fire at considerable risk to its life.

He expects me to pull the chestnuts out of the fire once again."

"Mr. M. K. Venkataraman, 19, V Street, Nandanam, Madras-35, wants to know the pronunciation of 'ewe' (female sheep)."

" 'Ewe' and 'you' are pronounced alike. A woman asked her husband the feminine of 'sheep'. She was very upset when he said 'ewe' (you)."

"Mr. K. Rama Rao, Hyderabad, wants to know the pronunciation of 'drought'."

"The 'ought' in 'drought' is pronounced like the word 'out'. The pronunciation of the word is 'drout'."

"Mr. Maqbool Siraj, 19/1 Mosque Street, Munireddypalayam, Bangalore, wants to know the pronunciation of 'chore' and 'chorus'."

" 'Chore' rhymes with 'bore' and 'sore'. 'Ch' is pronounced like the 'ch' in 'church' and 'china'. The 'ch' in 'chorus' is pronounced 'k'. The 'o' in 'chorus' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'chore', 'bore' and 'sore'. The 'u' in 'chorus' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'china' and the 's' in the word is pronounced like the 's' in 'sit' and 'still'."

"Ms Tasnim Tanseef of Calcutta, wants to know how to use 'all in all'."

" 'All in all' has two meanings. One is 'of supreme importance'.

She is all in all to him.
Writing was all in all to her.
He is all in all in the organisation.

The other meaning is 'generally speaking', 'on the whole', 'all things considered'.

All in all, it wasn't a bad performance.
Taking it all in all, I must say he conducted himself with great dignity in the recent crisis.

As slang, 'all in' means 'completely tired', 'exhausted'.

At the end of the day, I was all in!

In British English, 'all-in' means 'all-inclusive', 'including all costs'.

It is an all-in 20-day tour.
It is an all-in accident insurance.
Published in The Hindu on September 22, 1987

Word of the day

Lustre:
a quality that outshines the usual; the visual property of something that shines with reflected light; a surface coating for ceramics or porcelain

Synonyms: splendour, brilliancy, sheen, shininess

Usage: *The lustre of the night lights shone brightly against the rain.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/lustrepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈlʌstə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

181 people from Karnataka stuck in Sudan amid shortage of food, water

Commissioner for Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority says they are in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

As Sudan continues to witness large-scale violence, at least 181 persons from Karnataka are stuck in the African country.

S. Prabhu, 36, from Davangere, and his wife from the Hakki Pikki tribe have been stuck in the city of El-Fasher for the last 10 days. He has been in Sudan for the last 10 months to sell traditional medicine, which is in huge demand in the African country.

When contacted over phone, Mr. Prabhu told *The Hindu:* "We are here with 31 other persons living in a rented house. Two days ago, we heard firing outside. The building was damaged and a bullet made a hole in the wall during the crossfire.

"We belong to places in Davangere, Shivamogga, and Mysuru, and our group includes women and children. We are not able to go out due to continuous gunfire and shelling. A local police officer is now with us. He told us to vacate this area since there is the possibility of more attacks."

Over 30 persons from Karnataka are stuck in the city of El-Fasher in Sudan. They are living in fear after clashes between government forces.

They said they had no access to food or drinking water for four days until April 16, when Mr. Prabhu managed to get some ration from a shop in the locality that opened for some time.

According to Mr. Prabhu, Hakki Pikki tribes in Karnataka possess traditional medicinal knowledge and there is demand for it in some African countries and, thus, members of the community have been making trips to the continent for nearly a decade now.

Meanwhile, Manoj Rajan, Commissioner for Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority, said they are in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) regarding the safety of people from Karnataka in Sudan.

"We have spoken to people from our State who are stuck in Sudan. A group of 31 persons, including women and children from Davangere, has been stuck in the Sudanese city of El-Fasher. I have spoken to the Joint Commissioner concerned. He informed me that 181 persons from Karnataka are stuck in that country. We are finding out if there are more Kannadigas there," Mr. Rajan said.

The authority has told them to watch out for updates from the Indian embassy. "We have told them to be in covered areas and not to venture out. We assured them that Indians are not targeted in the present violence, and to be in a safe place," he added.

The embassy in Sudan issued an advisory on Monday urging Indians not to venture out of their residences and stay calm. On April 16, the embassy reported that an Indian had died in Khartoum after sustaining bullet injuries.

According to official data, the number of Indians in Sudan is around 4,000, including 1,200 who had settled down in the country decades ago.

The issue also led to a war of words between the Congress and the BJP. Congress leader Siddaramaiah urged both Central and State governments to immediately intervene and ensure the safe return of those stranded. In a tweet tagging the Prime Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Mr. Siddaramaiah wrote: "Hakki Pikkis in Sudan are left stranded without food since the last few days & the govt is yet to initiate action to bring them back. @BJP4India govt should immediately open diplomatic discussions & reach out to international agencies to ensure the well-being of Hakki Pikkis."

Replying to Mr. Siddaramaiah's tweet, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said, "Simply appalled at your tweet! There are lives at stake; don't do politics. Since the fighting started on April 14, the Embassy of India in Khartoum has been continuously in touch with most Indian Nationals and PIOs in Sudan."

VTU postpones first semester engineering exams to April 27

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Technical Education is conducting the admission approval for technical courses online from this year

Owing to technical problems in the approval process of admissions, the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) postponed the first semester Engineering examinations to April 27, on Tuesday. The exams were scheduled from April 20.

The Department of Technical Education is conducting the admission approval for technical courses online from this year. The VTU has developed a separate software for the process. But, due to technical glitches, the admission approval process has been delayed.

Only two days were left for the examinations and approximately 75,000 students, ready to face the examinations in 208 Engineering colleges, were worried and had demanded the postponement of the exams.

Along with this, the Election Commission has scheduled the election duty training on April 20 and the teaching faculty members of all government and aided Engineering colleges are expected to participate.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, S. Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor of VTU, said, "The technical glitches in the admission approval have been successfully resolved and 900 students' approval is remaining. The Election Commission is also conducting the training for election duty and all our government and aided college teaching faculties are participating. Therefore, we decided to postpone the examinations."

KIA reports strong passenger growth during FY 2022-23

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) reported a growth in passenger numbers during the financial year (FY) 2022-23, and maintained its leading position in processing perishable cargo.

When compared to the previous FY, the airport reported a growth in passenger numbers with a total of 31.91 million passengers travelling through the airport.

Of this, 28.12 million were domestic passengers and 3.78 million were international passengers. The domestic sector recorded a growth of 85% while the international sector recorded a growth of 245% vs FY 22.

Cargo traffic

In terms of cargo, KIA continues to be the number one airport for processing perishable cargo in India for the second consecutive year, according to Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates the airport.

"From a passenger perspective, the highlights of the year have been Akasa's growth story, the launch of Qantas' service to Sydney, and the launch of daily Airbus A380 services to Dubai by Emirates. With the recent launch of Terminal 2 (T2), we are better equipped than ever before, to maintain our standing as the preferred gateway to south and central India," said Satyaki Raghunath, chief strategy and development officer, BIAL.

BIAL said that the increase in passengers in FY23 can be attributed to resumption of operations post-pandemic, as well as the re-introduction of key routes and the initiation of new routes connecting leading business hubs and travel destinations.

KIA is now connected to a total of 100 destinations – 75 destinations across India and 25 international.

BIAL reported a 50.8% overall growth in air transport movements (ATMs) in FY 23. While the domestic ATMs saw a 49.8% growth, the international growth stood at 59.6%.

The airport recorded the highest number of passengers for FY23 on February 26 – 114,299 passengers, which was also the highest number of passengers on a single day since the airport opened in 2008.

BIAL claims that the airport is a preferred hub for transfer passengers.

Transfer traffic constitutes 15.3% of total departing passenger traffic at KIA. The airport's wide catchment area, which connects to over 20 cities within a 75-minute flying distance, and offer of 100-plus daily flights, has played a significant role in building transfer traffic and solidifying its position as a major aviation gateway in the region.

The airport has processed 44,143 metric tonne (MT) of perishable cargo in the current year till January 2023, and 52,366 MT during FY22. KIA's cargo contributed to 28% of India's and 45% of south India's market share for perishable cargo. The top export commodities are poultry products and flowers, while the top destination is Doha (Qatar).

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2-year-old drowns in pit dug up by BWSSB

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A two-and-a-half-year-old boy drowned in a pit that was dug up by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to lay a pipeline, at Gollarahatti on Magadi Road on Monday.

The pit had been left unattended. The deceased has been identified as Karthik.

He had ventured out of his house to play. He fell in the pit, which was filled with water.

Based on a complaint by his father Hanuman, the Byadarahalli police have registered an FIR against the BWSSB engineer concerned and contractor. They have been charged with death due to negligence.

From U.P.

Hanuman is from Uttar Pradesh. He had come to Bengaluru in search of work. He got work as a wall painter. His wife is pregnant. She was at home and Hanuman was away at work at the time of the incident.

A senior BWSSB official said "A case has been registered against the contractor for criminal negligence and an investigation is going on the matter".

Woman falls to death from fourth floor of apartment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 34-year-old woman was found dead after she fell from the fourth floor of her apartment in Puttenahalli on Tuesday morning.

Residents heard a sound and came out to see Sonu Singh lying dead outside her apartment. The Puttenahalli police rushed to the spot and shifted the body for post-mortem.

A probe revealed that Ms. Sonu Singh was arrested for allegedly murdering her stepmother in 2018. She was remanded in judicial custody and was later out on bail. The police suspect it to be a case of suicide.

The Puttenahalli police have registered a case of unnatural death.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

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DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER,
BENGALURU DISTRICT
& CHIEF COMMISSIONER, BBMP
N.R. Square, Bengaluru – 560 002.

GENERAL ELECTIONS TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2023

Subject: Strict action will be taken against non-attendence of officers / personnel assigned for election duties-reg.

Polling Personnel Deployment:

Date of 1st level Election Training	20th April 2023 at 9:30 AM
Date of 2nd level Election Training	Will be intimated later
Date of Mustering	9th May 2023 at 9:30 AM
Date of Poll	10th May 2023

CAUTION

Failure to report for election training, mustering and election poll duty shall attract cognizable penal action u/s 134 of RP Act 1951 and immediate FIR will be booked against the defaulting official and arrest warrant will be issued to produce official before District Election Officer. Also, disciplinary action will be initiated against such personnel under relevant provisions of service rules.

A Nodal Officer has been appointed from each sponsoring office for the purpose of polling personnel deployment. He shall serve the election duty orders on their staff and ensure their attendance at the training, mustering and poll duty. Any negligence in performing the above said duties shall attract cognizable penal action u/s 134 of RP Act 1951 and disciplinary action under relevant service rules.

Polling personnel can download election duty orders from BBMP website
www.bbmp.gov.in

PRO's and APRO's are requested to download PRO HANDBOOK from
https://eci.gov.in

District Election Officer, Bengaluru District &
Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru

'Need to tweak procedural laws to reduce pendency'

Karnataka High Court suggests amendments to itself and civil courts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that we cannot afford to lag in law reforms when India is a fast-developing nation having sent two missions to the Moon and one to Mars, the High Court of Karnataka has suggested changes to the procedural laws governing it and the civil courts in Karnataka to reduce pendency in the High Court.

"If the concept of justice to doorstep is to be realised in its letter and spirit, it is high time to amend the provisions of the law relating to the jurisdiction of the High Court and the district court to hear the first appeals under Section 96 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) governed by Section 5 of the Karnataka High Court (KHC) Act of 1961 and Section 19 of the Karnataka Civil Courts (KCC) Act of 1964," the court suggested.

Justice Ananth Ramanath Hegde made these observations while noticing that a plea, classified as regular first appeal (FA), which had questioned a decree passed by a trial court in a 28-year-old suit, was pending in the High

Court for the past 16 years.

The High Court noted that the KHC Act states that senior civil judges can hear all suits where the value of the properties or the value of the relief sought exceeds ₹5 lakh, except commercial suits.

However, the senior civil judges having unlimited upper pecuniary jurisdiction in deciding the suit, on being promoted as district judges, cannot entertain a FA if the value of the subject matter of the suit exceeds ₹10 lakh.

This is because the KCC Act states that district judges have the power to hear FAs on the orders passed by senior civil judges in suits having value between ₹5 lakh and ₹10 lakh, the High Court said.

The KHC Act, which states that it is the HC that has the power to hear FAs on the orders passed by the senior civil judges on the suits having value more than ₹10 lakh, has proved counterproductive, Justice Hegde said, while pointing out that this provision in the law increased FAs before the HC by many times due to skyrocketing of the property values during past two decades.

Pointing out that there are 19,275 regular FAs pending in the High Court as of March, 2023, Justice Hegde said that amending the laws empowering district judges to hear the FAs from the orders of senior civil judges would not only reduce pendency in High Court but also help the litigant to appeal the district courts, thereby ensuing "justice at the door step" instead of the need to knock the doors of the High Court.

Pointing out the upper pecuniary limit of ₹10 lakh fixed on district courts to hear FAs defies logic, the High Court said that empowering district judges to hear FAs by removing the upper limit would result in speedy and cost-effective justice for litigants as there are more than 200 courts available in Karnataka to hear FAs as against a few courts available in the High Court, Justice Hegde suggested.

Residents and mosque committee complain against 'Ramzan Food Mela'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Residents of Fraser Town walked to the Pulakeshinagar police station and complained against the 'Ramzan Food Mela' on Mosque Road. The Fraser Town Resident's Welfare Association (FTRWA) and the Hajee Sir Ismail Sait Mosque Committee had also written to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner and highlighted seven issues faced by residents.

The FTRWA and the Hajee Sir Ismail Sait Mosque Committee have been asking authorities to put a stop to the famous mela citing traffic snarls, garbage piled up on Mosque Road, and others.

Saud Dastagir, a member of FTRWA, said, "We walked to the police station and lodged an official complaint with the police. When asked why no action was taken for such lawlessness created due to the mela, the police showed us a letter he wrote to the BBMP and the Health Department with the same concern, for which they haven't gotten any reply till now to take any action." In the letter to BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, the residents wrote, "We appreciate the efforts taken by the government and the corporation to promote cultural and social activities in our city, but the unregulated operation of food stalls during the Ramzan Food Mela has become a nuisance to the residents of Fraser Town".

The FTRWA and the Hajee Sir Ismail Sait Mosque Committee in the letter listed issues such as footpath encroachment, environment pollution, public nuisance, health hazard, operating the entire night, blocking the way to the religious place, and electricity theft from street poles.

Bengaluru records 36.5 degrees Celsius

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The temperature in Bengaluru touched 36.5 degrees Celsius on Tuesday making it one of the hottest days of the year so far.

The temperatures over the last week or so have been hovering between 35 degrees to 36 degrees Celsius. On April 14, the city recorded 36.4 degrees Celsius with a relative humidity of 55%.

As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD) observation data recorded on Tuesday, Bengaluru city recorded a maximum of 36.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 21 degrees Celsius with a relative humidity of 24%.

The IMD data further showed that the Bengaluru International Airport and the HAL Airport recorded a high of 36.5 and 35 degrees Celsius respectively.

The highest recorded temperature in the city during the month of April is 39.2 degrees Celsius which was recorded on April 24, 2016.

Prior to this, the maximum ever temperature recorded in April was 38.3 degrees Celsius in April 1931.

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (April 19, Wednesday), the following explainer is available:

- Why did the Nagaland government repeal its municipal act ? **bit.ly/nagamunicipalact**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

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THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR The Hindu Young World THE HINDU

ISRO to launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite on April 22

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite on April 22, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The launch which will be carried out by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is scheduled to take place at 2.19 p.m.

This launch will be the PSLV's 55th mission and TeLEOS-2 is an Earth Observation Satellite developed by ST Engineering. This is the second satellite developed by ST Engineering to be launched by ISRO.

In 2015, ISRO launched TeLEOS-1, the first Singapore commercial Earth Observation Satellite, which was launched into a low Earth orbit for remote sensing applications. ISRO has so far launched nine satellites belonging to Singapore.

The PSLV-C55 is ISRO's third launch this year and the last PSLV mission was in November last year.

The public can also witness the launch from the Launch View Gallery in Sriharikota by registering through the link : https://lvg.shar.gov.in/VSCREGISTRATION/index.jsp

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-bids are invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

Sl. No.	Name of work and Tender No.	Bid Security	Prebid meeting Date	e-Bid Submission closing Date	e-Bid Opening Date
1.	Providing Comprehensive Underground Sewerage Scheme to Semmenchery (Division-200) Area-XV in the expanded Chennai City CNT/SEW/NCB/AMRUT 2.0 & Singara Chennai 2.0 /009 /2023-24	Rs.14.20 Lakhs	15.05.2023 at 11:30 a.m.	05.06.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.	06.06.2023 after 3.30 P.M.
2.	EMD by online transfer only through NIC Portal. The tenderer shall submit scanned copy of online transaction statement towards EMD as part of Bid document.				
3.	Availability of Bid documents and e-bid submission is permitted through tender portal / website: **www.tntenders.gov.in** For all other details refer Bid documents in the website from **02.05.2023.**				

DIPR/ 2204 /TENDER/2023
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e-Tender Notice

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Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) invites **Online Tenders** for construction of Fintech Tower, a high-rise building at Fintech City, Nandambakkam Village, Alandur Taluk, Chennai District under "Two Cover System" from Class-IA State Level Civil Contractors registered with PWD/TNHB/TNPHC/TNUHDB/Highways/Any Department/ Quasi-Government Departments of Government of Tamil Nadu, Central Government Departments having experience in undertaking similar nature of works. Tenders shall be uploaded through **www.tntenders.gov.in** on or before **18.05.2023 at 3.00 PM** and the same will be opened on **19.05.2023 at 3.30 PM.**

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Raj.Samwad/C/23/756

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that my Client intends to purchase the immovable property being the land described in the **Schedule** below ("**Schedule Property**") which is owned by the person specified in the Schedule ("**Owner**"). The Owner has represented that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Any person/s claiming to have in any manner of right, title, benefit, demand, claim or interest in relation to the Schedule Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, let, lease, license, assignment, mortgage or in any other manner, is hereby called upon to lodge his objections and/or claims in writing along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned within **10 (Ten) days** from the date of this notice. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that no person, except the Owner, has a right over the Schedule Property and claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived.

Schedule Property

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being agriculture land totally measuring 19.08 Guntas situated at Survey No. 99/5 (old Sy No.99/1) at Heggenahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District described below:

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent Acres	Extent Guntas	Boundaries East	Boundaries West	Boundaries North	Boundaries South	Owner
1.	Old Survey No. 99/1 New Survey No. 99/5	0	19.08	Property belonging to Ms. Sunita bearing Survey No. 99/2	Chapparkallu Road	Property belonging to Leela Devi and Santhosha Kumari. Land bearing Survey No.99/4	Property belonging to M.Srinivas bearing Survey No. 99/1	Mr. M.Harish Babu

Date: April 19, 2023
Place: Bangalore

Signed/-
Harshavardhan.R
Advocate
No.12 Nandi View Layout,
Dinnur Road, RT Nagar, Bangalore-32
Email id: harshavardhan27@gmail.com
Ph:9740970555

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, IMRAN Pasha, S/O. Mohammed nazeer,R/O.No 160,4th Crs,Behind Pushpanjali Talkies, Anarayanapura, Blr–16, have changed name to Imran Pasha Mohammed Nazeer vide afdvt dtd 18/04/23

I, MUSTAFA Gulzar Begum, R/at Old No.23, New No.18, A Cross, 5th Main Road, Bismillah Nagar, Bengaluru-560029 have changed my name to Gulzar Begum vide Affidavit dated 13.04.2023 sworn before Notary N.Nagappa, Bengaluru.

It is for general information that I, Sowmya Antala D/o B S Garudachar, Ex.wife of Amit Antala, residing at DSR Pride, Flat 213 24th Main, Parangi Palya, Nera Power Station H S R Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560102, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I got a divorce from my husband Vide Court Decree M.C.No. 2917/2019 Dated.20/12/2019.Further I have changed my name Sowmya Antala and shall hereafter be known as Sowmya Iyengar, which may be amended accordingly.

I, VIJAYARAJ Porwal, S/o Mithalal Moolchand Porwal, R/at No.11, Masjid Street, Linden Street Cross, Yellagundapalyam, Vivek Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560047, have changed my name from Vijayaraj Porwal to Vijayraj Porwal vide affidavit dated 18-04-2023 before Notary Uday Kumar. K, B'luru.

I, SUGANIYA Daughter of Service No.1361306N Rank:Naik(Retired) Name: Ramesh Kumar S, R/o #3, Amma Ashraya, 17th Cross, Muniswara Nagar, T C Palya Main Road, R M Nagar, Bengaluru-560016, have changed my name from Suganiya to Priyanka R K and correct my D O B from 04-12-1988 to 04-07-1988 vide affidavit dt: 27-02-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'lore.

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

LOST ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES & MARKS CARDS

I have lost my original Certificate & Marks Card of 12th Standard Indian Certificate for Secondary Education Examination - Index No. T/610/007 and of 10th Standard All India Senior School Certificate Examination - Roll No. 5253723.

If found, kindly return to Anjali Raghuvanshi, Flat No. 503, Esteem Splendor 2, Adugodi Main Road, Bengaluru - 560030.

I, LAKSHMI VENKATESWRAN w/o. S.Venkateswaran R/o. 6/21, Tanjore Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-17. is the Registered holder of the Equity Shares of Escorts Kubota Limited, 15/5, Mathura Rd, Faridabad, Haryana -121003 states that I have lost / misplaced my Share Certificates of the above said company and now I have applied for duplicate share certificates under folio No. ESCO 120987 of 300 Shares, The Certificate No. 00478894 - 00478905 & Distinctive No. 023375859 - 023376158 ESCO 120987 of 300 Shares, The certificate No. 00686651 -00686662 & Distinctive No. 029625859 - 029626158. Any person having claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claims with the company at above address within 15 days.

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 13TH ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYO HALL BANGALORE (CCH-22)
O.S. No. 26191/2021
BETWEEN: 1. Sri.T.N.S.Murthy, S/o Late, Narayana Iyer, Aged about 67 years, R/at. No.27, Basappa Road, Shantinagar, Bangalore-560027.
2. Sri.T.N.S.Rajan, S/o Late, Narayana Iyer, Aged about 65 years, R/at No.27, Basappa Road, Shantinagar, Bangalore-560027. ...PLAINTIFFS
AND:
Sri N. Venugopalan
Since dead Rep by his LR's & Ors
.... DEFENDANTS
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS NO. 1(c)
1(c) Smt.Savitha T.V, D/o Late, N.Venugopalan, Aged about 45 years, No. 10/9, 6th cross Rama Road, Balaji Nagar (Near Sri Krishna International school), Banashankari 3rd stage, Bengaluru-560085 **DEFENDANT**
The plaintiffs have filed O.S No.26191/2021 before the XIII Addl City Civil and Sessions Judge Mayohall at Bangalore (CCH- 22) seeking relief of partition and permanent injunction. The suit is posted for hearing on **23/05/2023.** You are hereby summoned to appear before the court on **23/05/2023 at 11:00 AM** in person or by a pleader duly instructed to answer all material questions relating to the suit.
Take notice that in default of your appearance the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 11th day of April 2023.
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
CITY CIVIL COURT, BANGALORE
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF'S
Ajay Govindraj, Advocate,
No.101, Ramanashree Chambers, Lady Curzon Road, Bangalore-560001.
41483633/41600331

PUBLIC NOTICE

WE WOULD like to inform the General Public Notice that the property Document of Sale Deed) Doc No:2696/ 2014) there about my client Janagi W/o. Balu, residing at D.No: 120, Mariyamman Kovil St, Ettiyampatti Village, Pennagaram Taluk, Dharmapuri District have-been misplace on 14–07–2022. If any person who is finds it is requested to return us at below mentioned address. T.R.Murugesan, B.A. B.L., M.THAMODARAN, B.A. B.L., Advocates Cell No: 94448 41848 / 9788 590 393

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Sd/-
Authorized Signatory

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Offers are invited for lease of property, namely, All that piece and parcel of land situated in New Door No.127/1, and New Door No.1 (Old No.127 and Old Door No.1), Plot No.7 and 1, T.T.K. Road, Demonte Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai–600018 in extent 4.59 grounds (11,016 Sq.ft.,) bounded on the North by: Road from T.T.K. Road, South by Road and Door No.2, East by Land in S.No. 3709/3 and 4, West by TTK Road. No.73, Mylapore Village, Triplicane–Mylapore Taluk, Chennai District, Corporation of Chennai, Situated with in the Registration District of Chennai–Central and Sub–registration of Mylapore, on "as is where is basis" which is owned by Estate of Sir John Demonte, a Public Charitable trust. The terms and conditions of lease can be obtained from property consultants Jones Land La Salle (JLL) having office at Level 8, Tower II, TVH Beliciaa Towers, Block 94, MRC Nagar, Chennai, India, 600028, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Sole Trustee, Estate of Sir John Demonte.

PUBLIC NOTICE Offers are invited for lease of property, namely, land situated in 13.32 grounds, belonging to Sir John Demonte Trust, comprised in Plot No.27, Door No.135 and New Door No.138, Plot No.28 in Door No.136, Plot No.27, Old door No.19, New Door No.39, Plot No.29 Old Door No.18, New Door No.37, Demonte Colony, St. Marys Road, Alwarpet, Chennai–600018 comprised in S.No.3676 part, Block No.73, Mylapore Village, Triplicane–Mylapore Taluk, Chennai District, Corporation of Chennai, bounded on the, North by: Land belonging to Sir John Demonte Trust, South by: St. Mary's Road, West by: Demonte colony street, East by: Land in S.No. 3674, Situated within the Registration District of Chennai–Central and Sub–Registration of Mylapore, on "as is where is basis" which is owned by Estate of Sir John Demonte, a Public Charitable trust. The terms and conditions of lease can be obtained from property consultants Jones Land La Salle (JLL) having office at Level 8, Tower II, TVH Beliciaa Towers, Block 94, MRC Nagar, Chennai, India, 600 028, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Sole Trustee, Estate of Sir John Demonte.

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Strokes for change: Murals by transwomen on voter awareness adorn CEO's office

A painting by the Aravani Art Project depicting people from different walks of life who have the right to vote and the power to bring about change through exercising their franchise. RAVICHANDRAN N.

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Amid the hectic election work going on at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for Karnataka in Bengaluru, a group of transwomen are silently doing their bit to create awareness about voting.

Shanti, engrossed in painting a sketch on the theme "Of the people, for the people and by the people" on the main wall in the quadrangle of the CEO's office, is part of the Aravani Art Project, an art collective founded by Poornima Sukumar, a multi-disciplinary artist. The collective is run by trans and cis women.

Colourful murals depicting an election scenario at a polling station, the process of voting, people getting inked or a person being assisted to reach a polling station adorn the walls of the CEO's office.

The murals are based on the theme 'democracy'. The idea is to create awareness about voting and to drive home the message that it is the right of every citizen to exercise his/her franchise.

"The wall that we are painting depicts people from different walks of life who have the right to vote, the power of change in voting, how important it is to be the person bringing about the change and the freedom to choose while you vote. Our murals symbolise the power of 'of the people, by the people and for the people," said Rajeshwari, another artiste.

Nandini, a cis woman, who is also part of Aravani, said another important aspect the art collective wanted to showcase was the importance of transgender votes.

According to data, transgender voters have increased from 4,552 in 2018 to 42,756 in 2023 in Karnataka. While a mere 9.8% of 4,552 enrolled transgenders voted in the 2018 Assembly elections, 11.49% of the registered 4,839 transgenders turned up to vote in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Work on the murals began on March 15 and seven of the eight walls in the CEO's office have so far been completed. Apart from Shanti and Rajeshwari, three other trans women – Noushad, Purushi and Jyothi – are involved. A supporting team comprising Nandini, Murugan and Pradeep is assisting them.

Manoj Kumar Meena, CEO for Karnataka, said, "When we got to know about the art collective's work on different art projects to raise awareness and create a voice for the community, we involved them in our awareness activities. These murals are being appreciated widely."

"We are working in coordination with the BBMP on providing them more space at strategic locations in the city to create further awareness about elections and voting," he added.

Transwomen and cis-women artists of the Aravani Art Project at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer in Bengaluru. RAVICHANDRAN N.

Priya Krishna's many vehicles bear 9279 as registration number

With total declared assets of ₹1,156 crore, the former Congress legislator from Govindarajanagar is among the richest candidates in the fray for the May 10 Assembly elections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ministers R. Ashok and Araga Jnanendra, Speaker VIshweshwar Hegde Kageri, MLAs Suresh Kumar, B. Sriramulu, Byrathi Suresh, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Anjali Nimbalkar, and Laxman Savadi, who recently shifted loyalties from the the BJP to the Congress, were among the 770 candidates who filed their nominations for the May 10 Assembly polls on Tuesday.

Supporters play traditional musical instruments as the BJP candidate for Govindarajanagar constituency Umesh Shetty arrives to file his nomination papers in Bengaluru on Tuesday. PTI

Among the richest

Former Congress legislator from Govindarajanagar Priya Krishna is among the richest candidates in the fray with total declared assets at ₹1,156 crore, with his assets increasing by ₹136.8 crore in the last five years even as his liabilities have also shot up.

The assets of BJP candidate N. Nagaraju (MTB), who filed his nomination on Monday, stood at ₹1,614.5 crore.

Mr. Krishna's liabilities have shot up from ₹802 crore in 2018 to ₹881.99 crore now, which include ₹780.87 crore towards 'Sundry Creditors,' his affidavit shows.

In 2018, he declared assets worth ₹1,020 crore, an increase from ₹910 crore in 2013. He has movable assets worth ₹935 crore and immovable assets of ₹221.83 crore.

Mr. Krishna, who was elected from Govindarajanagar in the 2009 bypolls to the Assembly, is the son of realtor-politician M. Krishnappa, popularly known as Layout Krishnappa, who is also the sitting MLA from Vijayanagar.

He appears to have a penchant for fancy registration numbers as all his private cars bear the registration number of '9279,' registered in different regional transport offices.

Some of the immoveable assets of Mr. Krishna are 'gifted,' as he mentions in the affidavit.

Meanwhile, the Congress candidate for Hebbal, Suresh B.S. popularly known as Byrathi Suresh, has assets of ₹648.12 crore. His assets shot up by ₹231.42 crore in the last five years. In 2018 his assets were worth ₹416.7 crore. Mr. Suresh's liabilities have also shot up from ₹41 crore in 2018 to ₹114.86 crore now.

He has movable assets worth ₹57.07 crore and immovable assets of ₹561.28 crore. He has disclosed his wife S.N. Padmavathi and daughter Swathi Suresh's combined movable assets a ₹7 crore and immovable assets of ₹22.77 crore. The couple has gold, diamond, and silver items worth ₹2.98 crore.

Lakshmi Aruna, the wife of mining baron and founder of Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha (KRPP) Gali Janardhan Reddy, is, as per the affidavit of Mr. Reddy, filed along with his nomination papers for Gangavathi constituency in Koppal district, richer than her husband. The couple's total assets are worth about ₹250 crore.

Ms. Aruna owns movable assets worth ₹96.23 crore as compared to Mr. Reddy who has moveable assets of ₹29.20 crore. Their son Kireeti Reddy has immovable property worth ₹7.24 crore.

In terms of the immovable property also, Ms. Aruna is richer with ₹77.80 crore as compared to Mr. Reddy's ₹5.41 crore and their son's ₹ 41.19 lakh.

Revenue Minister R. Ashok's assets including that of his undivided family have more than doubled in the last five years, from ₹32.04 crore in 2018 to ₹75.73 crore now. In his affidavit filed in Kanakapura Assembly constituency, he has declared the value of his personal assets at ₹5.28 crore while that of his undivided family stands at ₹70.45 crore.

Similarly, his total liabilities have increased from ₹1.86 during 2018 to ₹8.92 crore now including that of the undivided family.

The total value of movable and immovable assets possessed by Mr. Ashok's wife M.R. Pramila Rani have increased by ₹3 crore to ₹11.61 crore compared with the value declared in 2018 affidavit.

Ashok files papers from Kanakapura, says he is 'Modi's messenger'

BJP candidate R. Ashok during a rally before filing his nomination papers on Tuesday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The poll battle in the Kanakapura Assembly constituency from where KPCC president and chief ministerial aspirant D.K. Shivakumar is seeking-re-election, appears to be getting intense with Minister and BJP nominee R. Ashok filing his nomination from this seat on Tuesday.

Mr. Ashok, who is also contesting from Padmanabhanagar of Bengaluru, participated in a roadshow in Kanakapura town accompanied by party national general secretary and State in-charge Arun Singh and Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, before filing nominations in a bid to build a political tempo for his contest.

Incidentally, Kanakapura is one of the constituencies where the BJP had token presence so far. Mr. Ashok remarked that he had come to Kanakapura as the messenger of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to get good governance to the taluk by ending the political control of the Congress and Mr. Shivakumar.

When asked if he was surprised by the sudden decision of the party to field him from Kanakapura in addition to the usual seat of Padmanabhanagar, he said, "I am a disciplined soldier of the party. My commander Amit Shah has taken a strategic decision that I should contest from here. My duty is to follow the party's orders."

When he was reminded that the BJP has a token presence in Kanakapura as it could poll just around 6,000 votes during the previous elections, he said, "You can think that I am beginning from zero. You will know the difference when the results are announced."

He said the central leaders would also campaign in the constituency.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, APR. 19
RISE 06:05 SET 18:33
RISE 05:22 SET 17:55

THURSDAY, APR. 20
RISE 06:05 SET 18:33
RISE 06:03 SET 18:49

FRIDAY, APR. 21
RISE 06:04 SET 18:33
RISE 06:46 SET 19:44

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	36	25
Mysuru	36	24
Bengaluru	35	21

Bengaluru Today
36°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
36°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist & haze. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Job scam: Man loses ₹23. 7 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cyber Crime police are on the lookout for a gang which lured a 26-year-old private firm employee with a part-time online job offer and made away with ₹23.7 lakh.

Based on a complaint by Narendra T.S., a resident of Hesaraghatta, the police are trying to track down the accused through their Telegram account.

Mr. Narendra in his complaint said that the accused had approached him offering a part-time online job offer with a lucrative package. "It is a new modus operandi of cyber frauds," a police officer said. The police have requested people not to entertain and respond to part-time job advertisements on social media.

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M BG-BGE

Shettar trains guns on Santhosh; pins blame on him for denial of poll ticket

Karnataka BJP is in the clutches of a few persons; there is no democratic decision-making in the party any more, says the former Chief Minister who is now with the Congress. Denying the charge, Bommai says the party high command is following some principles in ticket distribution

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who quit the BJP to join the Congress, believes that he was denied the BJP ticket to contest the Assembly election by the machinations of party national general secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh, who wants to groom his supporters.

"Mr. Santhosh saw to it that I did not get the BJP ticket, which went to his loyalist Mahesh Tenginakai instead. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai told me that they were in my favour, but did not try hard enough," he told journalists at his home in Hubballi on Tuesday.

Mr. Shettar said Mr. Santhosh had been in charge of elections in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal, but he had not succeeded anywhere. "I do not understand why the BJP high command trusts him so much with elections in Karnataka, or elsewhere," he said. "Now, the Karnataka BJP is in the clutches of a few persons whose writ runs in the party. There is no democratic decision-making in the party any more."

With his supporters: The former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who quit the BJP to join the Congress, was given a grand welcome on his return to Hubballi. KIRAN BAKALE

Not isolated case

Arguing that his was not an isolated case, the former Chief Minister said Mr. Santhosh had been "grooming an army of loyalists" and had toppled senior leaders who had remained loyal to the BJP for decades, only to accommodate his favourites. "Even the BJP State unit president Nalin Kumar Kateel is his man. Mr. Santhosh brought Mr. Kateel into the core committee, and now, he has been continuing in his position (State unit president) even though his term is over."

In Mysuru too, Mr. Santhosh claimed that his loyalist T.S. Srivatsa got the ticket instead of S.A. Ramadas, incumbent MLA, for Krishnaraja constituency. "Young and inexperienced leaders such as the former IPS officer K. Annamalai have been made joint in charge of Karnataka while senior leaders like me are not consulted," he claimed, adding that he changed parties to retain self-respect.

In the past

He said that when leaders like Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Rajnath Singh were in charge of Karnataka, they consulted extensively. "We were not consulted by the new dispensation for any important decisions. In the last three years, I was not allowed to speak even for five minutes in the BJP State executive committee, of which I am a long-standing member," he said.

Questioned about his ideological position, considering his background in the RSS, Mr. Shettar said there was no confusion in his mind about his ideological suitability in the Congress.

"I like to think about it like this – both are national parties that want to work for the poor and marginalised. I have always led a life of probity. I have always had people's welfare on the top of my mind. I will continue to do that in this party," he said.

Mr. Bommai denied the allegation and said, "The party high command is following some principles in the distribution of ticket. There are systems in place. It is a very open and democratic system. Our topmost leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a highly democratic leader," he told journalists at Mudhol in Bagalkot district.

"Mr. Shettar is complaining about centralisation of power, but was a centre of power till recently," he said.

CM on Lingayats

He said that the exit of Mr. Shettar or the former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi would not alter the party's Lingayat base. "Lingayats in Karnataka are vigilant. They take the right decision about various issues. The Congress had tried to divide the Lingayat community but is now showing unprecedented love for them. That is nothing but opportunism," he said.

Shobha's poser: Will Shettar's ideology change with party?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister and BJP election management committee convener Shobha Karandlaje launched a counter-attack at the former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who has joined the Congress, by asking if his ideology would change now "just because the (party) flag which he is holding has changed".

At a press conference in Bengaluru, Ms. Karandlaje recalled that Mr. Shettar came from a family of staunch supporters of the ideology since the Jan Sangh days and that even party stalwarts such as A.B. Vajpayee and L.K. Advani used to stay in their house whenever they visited Hubballi.

"You have inherited such an ideological heritage. Also, you are among those who carried bricks to build the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. But you have now joined the Congress that opposes the Ram Mandir. What is your stand in this regard? Also, the BJP has increased the reservation for Lingayats by taking away the reservation from the Congress vote bank [referring to Muslims] that had been given against the principles of the Constitution. Now, the Congress is saying that it will restore the original position for them. As a Lingayat leader, did you ask the Congress, before joining it, which community will be affected by this?" she asked Mr. Shettar.

"The BJP had given you the important post of the Leader of the Opposition though there were veteran leaders such as B.B. Shivappa. It also gave you all the posts right up to that of the Chief Minister. How could you forget all these things and quit the BJP and join the party with a contrasting ideology?," she wondered.

She cautioned Mr. Shettar that people would teach a lesson to those who quit the party for "selfish political reasons" and maintained that the BJP was bound to win in Hubballi-Dharwad Central.

Expressing dissatisfaction over Mr. Shettar blaming BJP national national general secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh for him missing out on the party ticket, she maintained that Mr. Santhosh was not a political competitor for Mr. Shettar.

From Page One

Congress fields Savanur against Bommai

For the Pulikeshinagar constituency in Bengaluru city, the party hasn't yet announced its candidate. The incumbent MLA R. Akhanda Srinivas Murthy has quit the membership of the Legislative Assembly.

Mohammed Yousuf Savanur

The former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who joined the Congress on Monday, has been given the ticket from Hubballi-Dharwad Central.

Hoolageri re-nominated in Lingsugur

The party put an end to the speculation in Lingsugur constituency by re-nominating incumbent MLA Durgappa S. Hoolageri. May 10 polls.

To face the BJP's general secretary C.T. Ravi in Chikkamagaluru, the Congress has fielded H.D. Thammiah, while M.A. Gopalaswamy is the party's candidate in Shravanabelagola in Hassan district.

In Hubballi-Dharwad West, the party has fielded Deepak Chinchore.

So far, the party has announced candidates for 216 constituencies. It is yet to announce candidates for the remaining eight constituencies.

Nadda asks workers to remain united

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

BJP national president J.P. Nadda has urged all party workers to remain united and work hard for the victory of the party candidates in the coming elections as it is very important.

At a workers' rally in Hubballi on Tuesday, Mr. Nadda said this election was crucial for the comprehensive development of Karnataka. Mr. Nadda's arrival in Hubballi was a day after its senior leader Jagadish Shettar, who was denied the party ticket, moved to the Congress and is set to contest from the Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency.

"You should all realise that BJP MLAs are not here for either power or position in public life. For them, this is an opportunity for serving the public. We have to fight to uphold the party ideology and ensure that India remains stronger," he said. "We are a cadre-based and nationalist party. It is evident from the fact that we abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution as it was dividing this country," he said.

BJP national president J.P. Nadda greeting supporters at Hubbali airport on Tuesday. KIRAN BAKALE

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel, MLA Arvind Bellad, and MLC S.V. Sankanur were among those present.

Ramdas pledges to continue as 'ordinary BJP worker'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

S.A. Ramdas, BJP MLA who has been denied the ticket for the Krishnaraja Assembly constituency in Mysuru, has pledged to continue as "an ordinary worker of the party".

The announcement made on Tuesday evening came a day after the disappointed MLA said he would spell out his future course of action after holding discussions with his supporters and party workers.

At a press conference in Mysuru, Mr. Ramdas said he would not contest the election as an Independent and would retain the primary membership of the BJP "till his last breadth".

Though he was under pressure to contest as an Independent and a survey he had commissioned revealed that he would win by a margin of 12,000-13,000 votes, Mr. Ramdas sought to make it clear that he would not enter the fray as an Independent and would instead abide by the directions of the party.

Briefing: The former Minister S.A. Ramdas addressing a press conference in Mysuru on Tuesday. M.A. SRIRAM

Mr. Ramdas also assured to accompany T.S. Srivatsa, who has been chosen by the party as its candidate for Krishnaraja, at the time of filing nominations on April 20.

Though he aspired to become an MLA for one more term to complete all the pending works, Mr. Ramdas said he does not mind losing on the personal front, but would not like the country to suffer. He said the country and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were more important to him.

Mr. Ramdas said he would be setting aside ₹1 crore for the welfare of party workers of Krishnaraja Assembly segment.

Fielding queries on who was responsible for the denial of the ticket to him, Mr. Ramdas said he does not wish to conduct a "post-mortem" of the same.

Akhanda resigns from Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

R. Akhanda Srinivas Murthy, Congress MLA for Pulikeshinagar constituency in Bengaluru, has resigned from the Legislative Assembly. He submitted his resignation to Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri at the latter's home in Sirsi, Uttara Kannada.

Mr. Murthy won his first election on a JD(S) ticket in 2013. He switched to the Congress in 2018. He won the seat in 2018 by a margin of 81,626 votes. He secured 97,574 votes against 15,948 by JD(S) candidate B. Prasanna Kumar.

Mr. Murthy told media-persons that he had resigned from the Assembly, but not the Congress. He would decide his future course of action after discussions with his supporters. Sources said the former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had told Mr. Murthy to wait for a day before taking any decision.

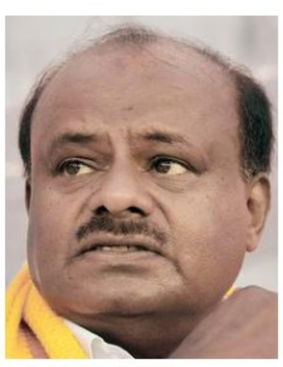
Kumaraswamy denies any plan to contest from Mandya constituency

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU/BENGALURU

Amid speculation that he might contest from Mandya, the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Tuesday clarified that he had no plans of contesting from anywhere besides Channapatna.

This comes in the backdrop of the JD(S), which was heaving a sigh of relief after sorting out the Hassan seat imbroglio, now being faced with the daunting task in the Mandya Assembly constituency, a crucial seat for the party.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said his party would field a woman farmer or a party worker if Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambareesh, who is supporting the BJP and predicted JD(S) rout in the coming elections, entered the poll fray in the Mandya Assembly constituency and would ensure the party's victory.



H.D. Kumaraswamy

"I'm not a big person like her (Ms. Sumalatha). The people of Mandya will give a fitting reply to the arrogant words," he said, while responding to the MP's recent remarks against him and the JD(S) MLAs from Mandya.

Replacing candidate

Meanwhile, in the JD(S), while legislator M. Srinivas was named as the candidate when the party released its first list in November 2022, hectic backroom negotiation is on to replace him owing to his poor health. This had also raised speculation over the possibility of Mr. Kumaraswamy contesting from Mandya. Though the party had swept all seven constituencies in Mandya district in 2018, it is facing challenges this time around.

Party sources said that though Mr. Srinivas had been declared as the candidate to prevent any early dissidence in the party, it had been decided that he would be replaced. "While he wanted the ticket to his son-in-law, there is strong opposition to his candidature from local party leaders. There are three more strong contenders for the ticket to which Mr. Srinivas is not agreeing. Instead, he is asking Mr. Kumaraswamy to contest in Mandya along with Channapatna." Sources said that the party believes that contesting from two seats would send wrong signals, and could even weaken his chance at Channapatna where he is taking on BJP heavyweight C.P. Yogeshwar.

Another source said that it was also believed that Mr. Kumaraswamy contesting from Mandya would enhance the party's chances in the district.

Quota issue: Karnataka seeks time to file response to plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna adjourns the case till April 25

The Karnataka government on Tuesday sought more time to file its response in the Supreme Court to a petition challenging its move to scrap the 4% OBC quota for Muslims and divide it between the Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities ahead of the Assembly polls.

In the last hearing, the court had orally said that it *prima facie* found that the State's action was based on "absolutely fallacious assumptions".

A Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna adjourned the case till April 25 after Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for Karnataka, said they would need the weekend to finalise the response.

On April 13, Justice Joseph pointed out that Muslims, for a very long period, were treated as a "more backward" community.

"They were sandwiched somewhere between the 'most backward' and 'backward' communities. Suddenly you have taken reservation benefits away from them... I have to speak my mind here, so that you can respond... What strikes me as a student of law is that the order is based on absolutely fallacious assumptions," Justice Joseph had orally observed.

The court finally recorded in its judicial order on April 13 an oral assurance given by the State that "no appointment or admission is going to take place till April 18", which was the next date of hearing.

The court then gave the State three days to file its counter affidavit.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, for petitioner L. Ghulam Rasool, submitted that the State had removed Muslims from the backward class list and included them under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category without any empirical data collected or study done to support the move. The March 27 government order to scrap the Muslim quota in the State was based on an "interim" report from the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission.

Over ₹13 crore seized in 24 hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Election Commission has seized ₹13.06 crore in the last 24 hours.

With this, the total seizures since March 29, when the model code of conduct for the Assembly elections came into force in Karnataka, has touched ₹187.17 crore. This includes cash, liquor, drugs, and precious metals, according to a press release.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

P.B.THIAGARAJAN (87), Retired Deputy Editor, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 18-04-2023. Address: 15 & 17, Karpagam Gardens, 5th Cross Street, Adyar, Chennai -600020. Contact No: 044 - 24912580

Delay in Bills: Pinarayi, Stalin to fight together

The Tamil Nadu and Kerala Chief Ministers make common political cause over gubernatorial delay in giving assent to Bills passed by their respective State legislatures; Pinarayi says denying assent to Bills passed by elected State Assemblies is tantamount to negating peoples' democratic rights

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The "inordinate" gubernatorial delay in giving assent to Bills passed by their respective State legislatures has accorded Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his Tamil Nadu counterpart M.K. Stalin a consequential opportunity to make a common political cause in addressing a volatile issue that has roiled both administrations and strained their relations with the BJP-led Central government.

The dialogue between the two leaders, in the form of back-to-back official correspondence over the past week, has also appeared to lay the ground for a possible coming together of regional forces against the Centre's alleged trespasses on federalism.

Mr. Vijayan and Mr. Stalin have concurred that gubernatorial procrastination over signing Bills into law precipitated an administrative stasis in their States. They have felt Raj Bhavans often overstepped the constitutional bounds and pushed States' legislation into the abyss of uncertainty by withholding their imprimatur.

Mr. Stalin initiated the dialogue in a letter to Mr. Vijayan dated April 11. He pointed out that the Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed a resolution urging the Union government and the President of India to fix a time limit for Governors to approve the Bills passed by the State Assembly, a statutory step in the law-making process. Mr. Stalin urged the Kerala Assembly to adopt a similar motion to uphold the "sovereignty and self-respect" of State governments. Mr. Stalin also enclosed a copy of the Tamil Nadu Assembly resolution for Mr. Vijayan.

A file photo of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during a meeting held at Nagercoil.

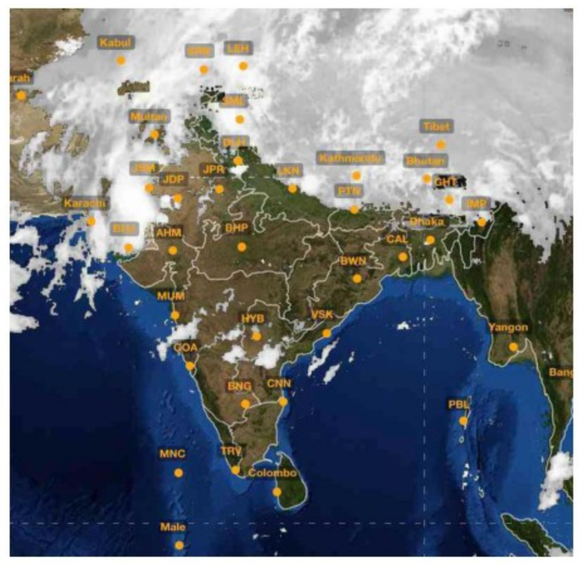
Mr. Stalin said the Tamil Nadu Governors' unwillingness to consent to laws passed by the Assembly, including the "Bill to Ban Online Rummy", constrained the House to adopt the motion. He was concerned that Indian democracy stood ominously at a crossroads and the spirit of cooperative federalism waned.

In his reply dated April 17, Mr. Vijayan stressed the necessity for setting a deadline for Governors to decide on Bills. He said the Constitution did not specify the period for giving assent to Bills. Hence, he said there was the need for a "reasonable one". Mr. Vijayan quoted the recommendations of national commissions to review Centre-State relations and study the Constitution's workings to press his case for setting a deadline for Governors to withhold or consent to State legislation. He said denying assent to Bills passed by elected State Assemblies is tantamount to negating peoples' democratic rights.

Mr. Vijayan also reminded Mr. Stalin of the Centre's dismissals of the Kerala and Tamil governments in 1959 and 1976 respectively and called for defending the Constitution's federal spirit from such future infringements.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Delhi, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Telengana, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	37.6	27.4	Kozhikode	—	37.1	27.8
Ahmedabad	—	40.8	25.2	Kurnool	—	43.5	25.7
Aizawl	—	37.6	19.1	Lucknow	—	41.3	24.5
Allahabad	—	44.2	24.6	Madurai	—	39.0	24.7
Bengaluru	—	36.5	21.0	Mangaluru	—	35.0	26.0
Bhopal	—	—	22.5	Mumbai	—	37.1	23.7
Bhubaneswar	—	42.7	25.6	Mysuru	—	36.3	22.7
Chandigarh	—	39.4	25.1	New Delhi	—	40.4	22.5
Chennai	—	36.1	25.0	Patna	—	44.1	25.2
Coimbatore	—	38.2	25.0	Port Blair	—	33.8	27.0
Dehradun	—	37.3	20.1	Puducherry	—	35.2	25.8
Gangtok	4	24.4	16.5	Pune	—	39.5	23.0
Goa	—	34.8	26.0	Raipur	—	43.2	27.5
Guwahati	—	37.0	24.7	Ranchi	—	40.2	24.4
Hubballi	—	39.0	23.0	Shillong	—	28.9	23.1
Hyderabad	1	39.4	22.4	Shimla	—	25.4	16.4
Imphal	—	33.7	20.4	Srinagar	7	15.3	11.0
Jaipur	—	39.0	27.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.7	26.8
Kochi	—	34.0	28.2	Tiruchi	—	39.9	25.6
Kohima	9	24.5	16.2	Vijayawada	—	39.8	25.2
Kolkata	—	39.5	29.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.3	28.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.14	..51	..—	...157	...134	
Bengaluru	...3	..—	.20	...118	...141	
Chennai	...3	.81	.94	91	82	
Delhi	.40	..17	.47	...247	...358	
Hyderabad	.16	1	.98	...123	...198	
Kolkata	...4	6	.30	...118	...132	
Lucknow	.12	..72	.76	...228	...197	
Mumbai	.16	..18	.85	...194	...151	
Pune	104	150	117	...131	97	
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	.36	.....—	.....—	.....—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 363 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Karauli, Rajasthan recorded a healthy AQI score of 36

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Transmission project: Karnataka gets a breather from CEC

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

Karnataka has received a breather with respect to the proposed Goa-Tamnar transmission project which could have resulted in felling of more than 62,000 trees in the State forests.

The 400 kV transmission line project from Goa to Tamnar entailed diversion of 177 hectares of forest land in Dharwad, Belagavi, and Uttara Kannada districts. The project is to draw a transmission line from the existing power grid at Narendra in Dharwad district to Xeldem in Goa, and the length of the transmission line is 94 km out of which 72 km length of the line was to pass through Karnataka forests, including 6.6 km of the line through Anshi-Dandeli tiger reserve.

There are concerns about Goa-Tamnar 400 kV transmission line fragmenting forest areas in the Western Ghats, including Kali Tiger Reserve. FILE PHOTO

The Central Empowerment Committee (CEC) at its meeting on April 13 to discuss the issue clarified that the Karnataka government should take a decision on the most appropriate alignment for the transmission line up to Narendra and the CEC's examination of the proposed alignment was limited to the State of Goa only.

The CEC said that Karnataka should take a decision on the alignment after considering the technical feasibility of drawing the 400 kV transmission line up to Narendra, the extent of forests involved, the number of trees to be cut in each of the three alignments and the impact of each of these options on the wildlife and ecology of the area.

Conservation activist Giridhar Kulkarni had written to the authorities to reject the proposal as the diversion of forests land would create additional biotic pressure and the removal of vegetation would result in fragmentation of forests and loss of wildlife habitat. Mr. Kulkarni welcomed the CEC's decision and said it was in the interest of Karnataka's forests and wildlife. "Now, the proposal has to get both the forest and wildlife clearance for the Karnataka alignment which was our argument too," he said and expressed hope that the State and the Union governments would reject the proposal as it was detrimental to the Western Ghats ecosystem.

Mr. Kulkarni had also written to the CEC ahead of its April 13 meeting that the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife had given clearance for the Goa part of the project without waiting for the recommendations of Karnataka part and said the project had to be viewed in totality and not in isolation.

He had also drawn attention to the recent NTCA concerns that tiger occupancy had declined in the Goa-Karnataka border and the proposed alignment of the project was in the same region which could further aggravate the situation.

RFP Notice SAI

Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bangalore invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for following: -

SAI/NSSC/ENGG/NIT-1/2023-24 to Appoint a Management Operator to Operate & 10 m, 25 m & 50 m Shooting Ranges at SAI, NSSC, Bangalore.

For more details please visit E-Tender website **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app, https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in/sai/, http://saisouthbengaluru.org**

The Last date of Submission of E-Tender is 10.05.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.

Sd/-, Regional Director I/C

RFP Notice SAI

Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bangalore invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for following: -

SAI/NSSC/ENGG/NIT-8/2022-23 to Appoint a Management Operator to Operate & Maintain 3 nos. Lawn Tennis Clay Courts at SAI, NSSC, Bangalore.

For more details please visit E-Tender website **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app, https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in/sai/, http://saisouthbengaluru.org/**

The Last date of Submission of E-Tender is 10.05.2023 up to 16.00 hrs

Sd/-, Regional Director I/C

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, MAHARASHTRA

No./AMC/PMAY/2023/14 — **E-Tender Notice (Second call)** — Date: 17-04-2023.

Municipal Commissioner invites Proposal (RFP) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (U) (PMAY) vertical no.3 for affordable housing project in Public Private Partnership mode on Govt. Land based model No.5 (DROH) at below Locations. Details regarding said work is available on **https://www.mahatenders. gov.in** from date 18/04/2023 to 03/05/2023

Sr.No.	Locations	Tender ID	Tender Fee	EMD
1	Sundarwadi Gut No.9,10	2023_AMCA_883617_2	Rs. 11,800/-	Rs. 50.00 Lakhs
2	Tisgaon Gut No. 225/1	2023_AMCA_883647_2	Rs. 11,800/-	Rs. 50.00 Lakhs
3	Tisgaon Gut No. 227/1	2023_AMCA_883667_2	Rs. 11,800/-	Rs. 50.00 Lakhs
4	Padegaon Gut No.69	2023_AMCA_883690_2	Rs. 11,800/-	Rs. 22.70 Lakhs

Sd/-
Commissioner and Administrator
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation

जा.क्र/मनपा/PMAY/2023/14

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mrs. PREMA DEVI W/o Mr. Vijay Kumar Sharma** and her son **Sri. ARUN KUMAR** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Sri. A. M MUNIVENKATEGOWDA S/o Late. Munivenkatappa** rep by his brother and GPA holder **Sri. Munegowda A.M,** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest, or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within before **24.04.2023** with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **Site No. 98,** Katha No.114/98, formed in converted Sy.No. 114 (Old No.74), {Conversion order No.ALN/AR/40/85-86, dated 28.03.1985, issued by the Tahsildar, Hoskote Taluk}, situated at **Adur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** measuring Eastern side 41 Feet, western side 34.9 feet, North side 40 Feet and southern side 40.6 feet, **totally 1524 sq.ft** and bounded on the:

East by : Road, West by : Site No. 109, North by : Site No. 99, South by: Road

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 7204863700

IN THE COURT OF THE XIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYO HALL, AT BENGALURU
O.S No. 26617/2022 (CCH-XXII)

BETWEEN:
Mr/Mrs. A. SELVARAJ AND BAMA ... PLAINTIFFS
AND:
Mr. THOTHAPPA AND ORS ...DEFENDANTS

Summons/Notice U/O VII Rule 1 R/W Section 151 of CPC for Permanent Injunction by way of Paper Publication:

To: Def. No. 1. Sri. THOTHAPPA, S/o. late Naikar Narayanappa, residing at No. 198, 17th cross, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru 560027.
To: Def. No. 2. M. SELVARAJ, S/o. A. Maduranayagam, Residing at No. 117, Manjunath Nilayam, Frazer Town, Bengaluru - 560005.

Whereas, above named plaintiffs has filed the above suit for Permanent Injunction and other reliefs in respect of the schedule property and you the defendant No. 1 and 2, are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions on dt: 06/06/2023 at 11 'O' clock to answer the claims and as the day fixed for your appearance is appointed for the disposal of the suit. You must be prepared to produce on that day all the witnesses upon. whose evidence and all the documents upon which you intend to rely/support of your defence. Take notice that, Tr default of your appearance on the day above/before entioned the suit will be heard by placing you EX-PARTE and determined in your absence.

2

SCHEDULE SUIT
SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the land and building bearing No. 1215, BBMP PID No. 87-416-17, situated at Lingarajapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. Presently called as Karimariyamma Temple Road, R. S. Palya, Bangalore, comes under BBMP Ward No. 87, measuring by: East to West 40 Feet, North to South 30 feet, in all totally measuring 1200 Square Feet along with constructed thereon and bounded by:
East by: House No. 20, West by: Road, North by: Private Property House No. 41/A; South by: Plot No. 43.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 11.04.2023
By order of the Court
Seal & Sd/-
Deputy Registrar City Civil Court
Mayohall Unit, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiffs:
NATURE'S WONDER
ADVOCATES AND CONSULTANTS
Shop No.8, Sena Vihar Kammanahalll Main Road Bengaluru - 560 043
Mobile: 88615 11885 E-mail: natureswonder_vakils@yahoo com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, SRI. H. N. BABU s/o Sri. H. N. Narayana Reddy, residing at # 9, Near Sri Rama Temple, Halanayakanahalli Village, Carmelaram Post, Bangalore – 560 035 are the absolute owners of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 10 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential **Site No. 122**, BDA Katha No. Kam.Aa (Poo)/122/Halanayakanahalli/2015-16, Property ID: 6000008034, measuring **18.29 Meters X 12.19 Meters** and totally measuring **222.96 Sq Meters or 2400 Sq.Feet,** formed in **Sy. No. 42/6**, in the residential layout called as **"Astro Green Park"** situated at Halanayakanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk and bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site Nos. 142 & 143, **North by:** Site No. 121, **South by:** Site No. 123

Dated this 19th day of April 2023 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS,
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS,
No.428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main HSR Layout, Sector 2, Bangalore-560102.
Phone: 080-65555914
Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150690.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public, that **N. SREENIVASA MURTHY,** aged about 65 years, s/o. Shri. Narayanappa R/at: No. 807, 3rd Main Road, New Thippasandra, Gitanjali Layout, HAL 3rd Stage, Bangalore North, Bangalore – 560 075, is the full & absolute owner of the BDA Site No. 2AC-319 having BBMP PID No/Khatha No. 68/2AC-319 formed by BDA Bangalore Situated at East of NGEF Layout, Bangalore, having purchased from his previous Owner/Vendor/M.C. Chaitra @ Chaitra Satish represented by her father/GPA Holder/Y. Chandrappa under sale deed dated 20/05/2022 registered on 21/05/2022 as Document No. BDH-1-01101/2022-23 of Book - I stored in C.D. No. BDHD 103 in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Bidarahalli, Bangalore, which is morefully described in the schedule below.

It is further notified to the General Public that N. Sreenivasa Murthy had lost the Original Allotment Letter dated 13/09/1989 issued by BDA Bangalore for having allotted the site bearing No. 2AC-319 in favour of original allottee/Prabhavathi N. A Police complaint in this regard was lodged with Bangalore City Police vide Lost Report No. 0524405/2023 dated 05/04/2023. It is hereby request that if any person/s come across or find the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below mentioned address & they will be compensated accordingly.

The General Public are hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule Property on the basis of the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk & cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against N Sreenivasa Murthy nor against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of property bearing BDA **Site No. 2AC-319** BBMP PID No/Khatha No. 68/2AC-319 situated at **East of NGEF Layout formed by Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore,** measuring East to West 9.15 meters, North to South 12.20 meters, in all measuring **111.63 square meters or 1200 square feet** with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface & bounded on:

East by : Site No. 2AC-321
West by : Site No. 2AC-317
North by : Site No. 2AC-320 &
South by : 2AC Road

Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocates,
312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross,
VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 082.

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BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

Cureka Healthcare Site showroom inauguration in Bangalore

We are thrilled to announce the grand opening of CUREKA's first physical store in Bangalore's prime location, Indira Nagar on 10th April 2023. Since 2014, we have been successfully running Cureka, an online healthcare platform that has garnered a massive following in India.The grand opening of the store was inaugurated by the popular actress and celebrity, Sharanya Shetty. At the opening ceremony, Dr. Sathish Devadoss Director of Cureka Healthcare expressed his gratitude to our loyal customers for their support, which made it possible for us to expand our business to a physical location. He also mentioned that the store would offer a unique shopping experience that would combine the convenience of online shopping with the tangible experience of physical stores.

Wedjat Health Solutions was founded in 2014 by Dr. Sathish Devadoss and Dr. Hema Sathish, who are passionate about treating patients holistically, addressing lifestyle changes as well as medications. The organization operates through its brands Cureka, Second Opinion, The Good Hygiene Company, and Health etc. Cureka is an online store that provides customers with healthcare and wellness products that are recommended by a team of doctors. The products are curated based on the current lifestyle requirements and concerns of individuals and are procured from verified and licensed manufacturers. Wedjat Health Solutions aims to bridge the gap between treatment, nutrition, exercise, and diagnostic procedures, collaborating with patients to determine the best course of action. The organization is committed to make quality healthcare accessible to everyone, with a focus on healthy living and holistic wellness.

Hiveminds' Ecommerce Conclave 2023

Hiveminds' Ecommerce Conclave was an event of key decision makers of top ecommerce brands of India, coming together to discuss and share the future of Ecommerce There were multiple panel discussions across topics of AI, Data, Personalisation etc towards the growth of brands. Key panel discussion revolved around the role of platforms in building brands. The panel included executives from top ecommerce platforms Amazon ads, Flipkart Ads, Bigbasket and ONDC. At the recently concluded HiveMinds E-commerce Conclave 2023, leaders from the e-commerce ecosystem in India came together to discuss what the consumers are looking for and how brands can deliver. Vipul Parekh, Big Basket in his Keynote address in the top of "Decade of Change" in Ecommerce space, highlighted that India's growth of next 10 years will be fuelled by three big changes : Firstly Offshoring in terms of manufacturing in India, secondly Digitisation in terms of money velocity & thirdly binding of the ecommerce ecosystem. Panel 1: In the Panel was Vipul parekh (Bigbasket), Vijay Iyer (Amazon Ads), Badrinath Mishra (ONDC) and Vaibhav Kapur (Flipkart Ads) discussion was on "how ecommerce is going to change in near future and role of different platforms in industry growth" Panel 2 : In the panel was Sripath Hariharan of Nivea India & Karan Rao of Rocketium's discussion was on the "Importance of Data AI and tools in marketplaces" Panel 3 : In the panel was Pooja Sahgal of Raymond, Rajeev Kohli, an e-commerce & marketing expert & Abhishek Agrawal of Plum Goodness had a highly engaging debate on "Getting into the Mind of the Consumer" Panel 4 : In the panel was Amit Tilekar of Wonderchef & Anand Dubey of Indkal Technologies while discussing the impact of mega sales on e-commerce platforms on the panel "How to Get the Best Mileage from Online Sales," CMOs of the leading appliance brands discussed the merits of launching innovative products during sale events. Startup founders, marketing heads, and platform ad sales teams attended the event en masse. All delegates felt that the discussions, though very useful, were just conversation starters. There is a need for the industry to hold such debates more frequently to bring all stakeholders together to discuss and define the future of e-commerce in India.

THE BIG BARN

Shravanthi Group founded by L. Balakrishna Naidu more than 2 decades ago, has been a story player in the real estate development across Bangalore. The group lead by Mr. Balakrishna Naidu returned into the Hospitality business more than a decades ago with a 4 star hotel Shravanthi sarovar Portico and a few more properties, and now has returned into the F&B space with its first Tap room space creating a new unique concept for south Bangalore. The Big Barn came about the idea after the space was a parts club idea and was stopped after the pandemic. During the pandemic the place was vacant and not used. Mr. Santosh Balakrishna decided to get this place into a F & B place and start an idea what it should be. Reaching out to Chef Rahul Mark Barua has a F & B Consultant who has done many concept dining for F & B places in the city had conceptualized this concept of The Big Barn. Chef Rahul has worked and lived outside the country and has travelled the world. He bring in the idea of a space what the understood of the demand of the what people wanted concept of the barn. Barn is what has been said.

An unique and first ever Episealer Ankle Surgery at Ramaiah Hospitals

For the first time in country, Ramaiah Medical College and Hospitals have performed an unique and complicated ankle surgery on Wednesday (12th April, 2023). A team of expert surgeons led by Dr. Ajoy S M, Associate Prof. Dept. of Orthopaedics, Foot and Ankle Specialist performed this unique Episealer Ankle Surgery on a 35-year-old patient.The surgery was performed in association with a globally renowned Orthopedician, Foot and Ankle Specialist, Dr. Cornelis Nicolas van Dijk from Amsterdam University, Netherlands. He designed and developed an implant to replace a portion of bone in the ankle. According to him, this bone is crucial in carrying the body's weight, and the surgeons used the implant on this patient. The patient, Suresh (name changed), had been suffering from foot pain for the past six years and was unable to stand or walk. After undergoing a CT and MRI scan, he was diagnosed with a rare Ankle problem, which is affecting one in million. Dr. Ajoy S M expressed his happiness at the successful completion of the surgery. and said, "This is the first time in India where we performed this surgery. Ramaiah Medical College and Hospitals will continue to lead the way in providing advanced healthcare solutions to patients in India and around the world.

Mission Rajasthan

The Congress needs to put its house in order to beat back the BJP

Months ahead of the Assembly elections, the ruling Congress is facing an internal rebellion in Rajasthan. Party leader Sachin Pilot has revived his campaign to become Chief Minister, replacing Ashok Gehlot. Mr. Gehlot is in no mood to yield, and party MLAs are largely with him. Mr. Pilot was the State party chief during the 2018 election and hoped to be the Chief Minister, when the Congress won. That is not how it turned out, and Mr. Pilot settled for the post of Deputy Chief Minister while remaining party chief. In July 2020 he rebelled openly, demanding the top post for himself. That ended up very badly for him – he lost both posts, while Mr. Gehlot tightened his grip over the party and the government in the process. Last year, Mr. Gehlot emerged as the consensus candidate for the post of Congress president, rekindling Mr. Pilot's hopes of succeeding him in Rajasthan. But Congress MLAs in Rajasthan revolted, this time against the move to install Mr. Pilot as the Chief Minister. In the end, Mr. Gehlot stayed on as Chief Minister and Mallikarjun Kharge became president of the party. Mr. Pilot is trying his luck again by ratcheting up pressure on the party and Mr. Gehlot.

Mr. Gehlot is a seasoned and astute politician with his ear to the ground. He has built a political narrative around fresh modes of welfare and social justice, in the process trying to make himself seemingly irreplaceable. Mr. Gehlot worked towards enhancing his popularity through compassionate management of the pandemic, measures to mitigate the impact of price rise, and, most recently, with a new law that expands access to health care. Whether all this will yield the Congress votes is to be seen. However, changes at the top at the eleventh hour are more likely to damage the prospects of the party at the hustings. The Congress does not need to look further than its most recent disaster in Punjab, in 2021, where it effected a change at the top on the eve of the Assembly election. With the Bharatiya Janata Party not exactly battle ready, the Congress can hope to win a second consecutive term in Rajasthan, if only it could put its own house in order. At 45, Mr. Pilot has age on his side, and he could be persuaded to reorient his ambitions accordingly. Mr. Gehlot should show sagacity, Mr. Pilot patience, and the high command leadership, for the Congress to advance in Rajasthan. As the election approaches, the situation might get worse before it gets better. The high stakes might prompt one or the other to overplay their hand.

Tragic failure

Governments must prepare people to deal with extreme weather events

The state of the ongoing global climate crisis is such that India is going to have hotter hot days and more of them every year. While some of the blame for the effects – heat-related morbidity and mortality – may lie at the feet of meteorological caprice, the bulk of it will lie at the door of the government, whose responsibility it is to deal with and manage foreseeable inevitabilities. On April 16, nearly a million people gathered on an uncovered ground in Navi Mumbai for an event in which social activist Dattatreya Narayan received a State award, with Union Ministers Amit Shah and Kapil Patil, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis joining him on a covered podium. More than 120 people suffered considerable heat stress; 13 died and 18 others were hospitalised. Mr. Shinde called the deaths "very unfortunate", but fortune had nothing to do with it. News reports said that individuals, especially police personnel, were scrambling to bring drinking water to those in distress (because water at the site had become too hot to drink), and to carry them on motorcycles to avail medical assistance. This speaks less to their resourcefulness and more to the absence of a systematic plan for the event that accounted for predictable second-order problems.

After the event, experts also said that the area lacked a local India Meteorological Department station to issue heat alerts. This misses the point. Many places in India are likely to have a large political event before an official weather station. This, together with the rapid onset of India's heat crisis, puts the spotlight on the fundamental yet elusive cause of climate-related injustice: the persistence of conditions in which some people are at the mercy of their employers or their leaders, in order to survive a hot day, or, as at the April 16 event, even a few hot hours. As long as this imbalance in relationship is allowed to exist, heat action plans and heat alerts can only be of limited benefit. Instead, India must work towards becoming a country in which every individual is equipped with climate-literacy sufficient to know why higher temperature plus higher relative humidity and/or dehydration equals high risk of injury and death, and the ability to access cool and clean drinking water, ventilated shelter and lodging, and affordable emergency medical care wherever, whenever. Notice how these requirements are similar to those required to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in fact most national crises. This is not a coincidence. Governments must destroy conditions in which people are denied the means to prepare themselves for a crisis. But on April 16, a government created them.

The future of India's civil society organisations

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government's systematic suffocation of civil society over the last nine years has ensured that most governments no longer listen to civil society organisations (CSO) or movements, either in the pre-legislative stage or in the redress of lacunae in the implementation of government schemes. Given that advocacy is effectively dead, the ability of civil society to shape policy and public discourse has shrunk drastically. Because civil society is seen to be the new frontier for war and foreign interference, there has been a systematic clampdown on CSOs lobbying for greater constitutional and civic freedoms. Therefore, activists, journalists, academics and students have been targeted by a plethora of the state's governing instruments and non-state actors (who have resorted to violence and abuse, online and offline). This has been further exacerbated by restricting the access of CSOs to resources (including cancelling Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act clearances, revoking 12A/80-G licences, imposing retrospective taxes, and pressuring private companies and philanthropists to redirect funding).

Because the BJP government has re-conceptualised *vikas* (development) as the furtherance of large projects, rather than citizen's well-being, civil society is being vilified as disruptive to India's development trajectory – and therefore anti-national. This portends a grave threat to the system's integrity because civil society is an indispensable safety valve for tensions in a polity.

Pushparaj Deshpande

is the Director of the Samruddha Bharat Foundation, a multi-party platform that furthers India's constitutional promise. He is also the series editor of the 'Rethinking India' series

A drastic structural adjustment

All this has been coupled with the BJP spearheading a structural adjustment of India's civil society landscape. By positioning many institutions from the Sangh Parivar, the BJP is fostering a 'New Civil Society for New India'. Apart from being the primary recipient of government patronage, the Sangh's CSOs are also the principal beneficiary of Corporate Social Responsibility funds (whether this is as *quid pro quo* for clearances/licences/exemptions by BJP governments, or through blatant coercion is anybody's guess). Moreover, these Sangh institutions have access to and influence over select departments in State governments (primarily education, culture, personnel as well as Dalit and Adivasi welfare). Apart from the profound programmatic implications this has (activities related to the welfare of women, Dalits, Adivasis, students, human rights and freedoms are increasingly shaped by the Sangh's ideological imperatives), this has also altered the civil society landscape in India. All other CSOs/movements are slowly being circumscribed as a result of the financial and political clout the Sangh's CSOs can muster. That this endeavour has not fully succeeded so far is testament to the legitimacy that India's CSOs/movements still enjoy among Indians. However, while most civil society actors are aware of the existential threat they face, they have not displayed nimbleness in reorienting their normative and operational methodologies. They still cling to outdated tactics whose overall utility is fast diminishing. Sanctioned, and therefore sanitised, protests at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, Townhall in Bengaluru or Azad Maidan in Mumbai are undoubtedly cathartic to the constituency that activists influence, and keep the flock together. But they do nothing to shape the thinking or action of BJP governments. Similarly, articles/papers, speeches at think tanks/conferences/symposiums, and petitions/open letters do not shame governments into any substantive course correction. Even lobbying legislators to raise issues is ineffective – the Union government either does not let Parliament function or ignores uncomfortable issues.

In the prevailing political climate, civil society needs to collaborate with other progressive stakeholders to move forward

Additionally, progressive CSOs fail to blend socio-cultural values with welfare/constructive work or calls to protect constitutional values. Consequently, they are unable to reshape hearts and minds, and thereby guide mass consciousness. Given that vast sections of society have been radicalised (highlighted in a 2017 study by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung), this is a major shortcoming of progressive civil society. Anecdotal evidence from various States suggests that local communities instrumentally secure benefits from progressive CSOs/movements, but ideologically align with the BJP. This dichotomy has resulted in psychological fatigue among key activists, who naturally question the foundational rationale of their work.

A realignment is needed

This situation is untenable for various reasons. First, because of the financial and structural constraints imposed on them, CSOs/movements are bleeding conscientious youngsters, who naturally need some financial sustenance. Second, without sustained support, CSOs cannot positively mould public discourse or make a tangible impact on the nation at large. And third, with governments consciously avoiding CSOs/movements, their ability to shape policy is diminished (which adversely impacts organisational morale). It seems unlikely that the BJP government would take any steps to redress these problems. So, what is the way forward for progressive civil society in India?

Faced with a drastically reduced spectrum of options, some progressives will migrate to safer avenues; others may limit the scope of their work, and still others may even re-align with the BJP. The net result is that civil society will be unable to speak truth to power, amplify the voices of the most vulnerable, enrich policies/legislation through constructive feedback, or further the collective good. This is obviously not in the peoples' or the national interest. We need to collectively forge a plan of action for this sector's future.

The one possibility that could emerge is that young activists could be inducted into political parties, either within the party organisation or in an aligned body. This could create an institutionalised moral force within the parties (which could balance electoral compulsions with ethical/human rights considerations). This would afford parties a layered systemic approach to thorny issues.

Currently, many parties consciously avoid direct exposure to difficult issues that could adversely impact them electorally (a real concern because of the ability of the powers that be to manufacture false narratives). This includes communal disturbances, atrocities against Dalits and women, championing the rights of activists fighting for Adivasi rights or civic and political freedoms. In stark contrast, if an aligned civil society organisation took up such issues (both within and outside the party organisations), it would ensure that a party remains connected to genuine community problems, while allowing for a permeable wall of separation. There is a precedent to this, when the Congress Movement (the Gandhian constructive movement) complemented the Congress system (which has always been an electoral and governance machine).

Given the prevailing political climate, CSOs will need to urgently collaborate with other progressive stakeholders (for which they will need to shed their studied aversion to each other and political parties). Some civil society stakeholders would argue against this, either because they can continue raising funds and attracting global attention when harassed. But those isolated examples do not address the systemic corrosion that the sector faces today. In fact, in the near future, the BJP could well resort to using the continued existence of these 'celebrity' activists as proof of their tolerance towards civil society in general. We need to find structural solutions to structural problems. This is our historic responsibility.

In that spirit, private philanthropies and companies need to realise that they are the only lifeline for progressive CSOs today. Yes, it is infinitely easier to support organisations that work on 'soft' issues that may not invite the wrath of the powers that be. It is even easier to look the other way. But inaction today will directly contribute to the extinction of civil society, arguably the fifth pillar of Indian democracy. Transcending instrumental exigencies, conscientious Indians must find the courage to work together and silently devise new methods of collaboration. Only through such a principled coalition can we first safeguard, and eventually further, the constitutional idea of India.

A message for the planners in dealing with the Dragon

China's recent move to 'allocate' names to places in Arunachal Pradesh is proof that Beijing wants to keep the India-China relations pot simmering, just short of a boil. While we have the Chinese Foreign Minister say that "... As neighbouring countries and major emerging economies, China and India have far more common interests than differences", we also have , besides the 'naming' farce, the denial of visas to some Indian media personnel who the Chinese consider to be 'unhelpful' in their reporting; this behaviour is nothing but 'creeping warfare,' perhaps *a la* the Sun Tzu kind.

Sun Tzu wrote that the acme of skill is winning without fighting. Should we then deduce that China is doing just that – a malicious engagement in a surreptitious manner? Or, are we giving more credence than is due to Beijing's supposed inclination to follow Sun Tzu's thoughts?

Manmohan Bahadur

a retired Air Vice Marshal, was Additional Director General, Centre for Air Power Studies

Articulations at the People's Congress

A commentary in the U.S. Army's West Point Modern War Institute, titled, "Sun Tzu's trap: the illusion of perpetual competition", considers China's President Xi Jinping as less of a Sun Tzu follower and cast more in a Maoist mould – a form that believes in power flowing through the barrel of a gun. And it is here that another recent article in the prestigious *Foreign Affairs* magazine (by two noted columnists, John Pomfret, a former Beijing bureau chief of *The Washington Post*, and Matt Pottinger, former U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser) gains credence.

The authors argue that Xi Jinping should be taken seriously when he says that he is preparing China for war. The article mentions war in relation to Taiwan, but a careful reading would show that Mr. Xi's articulations at the National People's Congress in March this year point more towards the larger implications of the thinking at the highest level in the Chinese government, i.e. the exhortation to work together, "dare to fight and be good at fighting", to break out of dependence on foreign technologies, and to get society to rally behind the People's Liberation Army and use the thrust towards 'unification of the motherland' as a stepping stone to making China great again. These statements are unexceptionable for any head of government to make, except that we need to be prepared for the tenor of the proclamations getting converted to kinetic activity *vis-à-vis* our own border problems with Beijing; remember, intentions can change overnight.

As power is not just about possessing capability but also about the 'capacity-to-last-the-distance', India's defence acquisition plans need to be oriented suitably

There have been border talks with China (the 17th instalment on December 20, 2022) and the by-now-usual post-talks statement of 'working together to maintain peace'. Such long-drawn out negotiations for what appear to be purely tactical positions, have a different hue when viewed through a strategic prism. In a lecture in 1986, titled 'Moral principles and Strategic Interests', the then U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, speaking on interlocution for advancing national interests, said that "negotiations are an euphemism for capitulation if the shadow of power is not cast across the bargaining table". He added that for authoritarians, the gun is always on the table and for the side without cards or a hand to play, negotiations are an illusion. Is there a message in this for New Delhi *vis-à-vis* its hard power preparations, in the midst of the meandering talks, to meet Beijing's challenge?

Defence committee's remarks

In the recent past, there has been exhaustive media coverage on arms procurement by our services from domestic players. However, closer scrutiny would show that assets that would carry the war to the adversary are missing from the publicity blitz underway. This has been critically commented-on too by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, in its March 2023 report. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is a case in point, whose deterrent and striking power would be vital in any India-China conflict. The committee has commented adversely on the slow production rate of the Tejas fighter by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and noted the IAF's urgent need to make up its dwindling squadron numbers through the 114 Multi Role Fighter Aircraft project. Similar observations have been made for hardware procurement for the Indian Army (modernisation of 45% equipment which is in the vintage category) and Indian Navy (requirement of a third aircraft carrier). The committee has acknowledged that funds are scarce, but has recommended that allocation for defence should be 3% of GDP to maintain India's deterrent posture.

What is odd, however, is the statement of the Defence Secretary (responsible for acquisitions and for the defence of India, as per allocation of business rules) who was of the opinion that the current allocation is sufficient. This is indeed surprising, for if it is true, then why the utter scramble for emergency armament purchases from abroad after every skirmish on the border?

As we enter another election year, the decision makers are sure to be aware that power talks – and talks decisively. The ongoing one-year-plus Russia-Ukraine conflict has shown that power is not just about possessing capability but also about the capacity-to-last-the-distance too. India's acquisition plans must be oriented accordingly.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student life

The article on saving the lives of young Indians in distress on campuses was food for thought (Editorial page, April 18). The fact is that today, academic results play a vital role in a student's life, which begins with the race to get a seat in a good institution. The pressure begins here. In fact pressure begins even in school. There needs to be a change in society where everything is not linked to academics and results.

Kopal Vijayvargiya,
Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

Party hopping

Switching parties by our politicians has become child's play. How can a political leader leave his party for petty reasons? What happens to the ideologies of the party he belonged to till now? When will the electorate 'identify' and reject chameleon-like politicians?

A. Jainulabdeen,
Chennai

In the court room

One need not be a die-hard conservative to oppose same-sex marriage. One should leave it to the choice of the concerned person. When such a matter does not form a part of the central plateau of Indian constitutional law, why give it so much priority? Especially when there are so many cases of great urgency such as Article 370, electoral bonds, and sedition pending on the desk of the Supreme Court of India?

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

The universally accepted basic feature of marriage is the union of people of the opposite gender. It is strongly felt that the top court must leave this matter to Parliament to decide after detailed discussion on the subject.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

While religious organisations claim that marriage is a "sacred union" and the executive suggests that this is a subject best handled by the legislature, one has LGBTQIA+ organisations demanding equal rights. In such a tussle, compromise and tolerance may be the best options.

Ishtmeet Kaur,
Ludhiana, Punjab

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

A judgment that upholds the Constitution

Kaleeswaram Raj

is a lawyer at the Supreme Court of India

The Supreme Court judgment in the Media One case (*Madhyamam Broadcasting Ltd Media One Headquarters v. Union of India and Others*) requires a political reading and not merely a legal one. It is a landmark judgment on the freedom of expression and a judicial fiat against sealed cover malpractice. It endorses the citizen's right to question the state by distinguishing the government from the nation. It is a judicial admonition against the misuse of the rhetoric of national security to cover up the state's arbitrariness. Yet, there is a contextual significance to the verdict, which we must keep in mind.

The judgment comes at a time when the Centre is being criticised for its attempts to destabilise the institutions of democracy. The Supreme Court too faces its share of criticism. It has postponed hearings on important cases such as electoral bonds and the dilution of Article 370. It has also upheld the draconian provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and taken a stand against constitutionally guaranteed freedoms, such as by staying a Bombay High Court order directing the release of physically challenged activist G.N. Saibaba.

An attempt to regain glory

Yet, the apex court has tried to regain its glory. In *Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India*, it took away the power of appointment of Election Commissioners from the sole domain of the executive and directed the constitution of a committee comprising the Chief Justice of India, the Prime Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition to select them. The contribution of the Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, in modernising the court is remarkable. The Media One judgment has underlined the institutional capacity of the court in troubled political times. In the past, many constitutional principles were developed by the court when the matter was either infructuous or had mere academic value. When the *Bommai* case was decided in 1994, holding that federalism and secularism are the basic features of the Constitution, the real dispute in the case – the correctness of the dissolution of a few State governments – did not even survive for consideration, as elections were held in those States subsequently. Again, when the *Puttaswamy* case challenging the Aadhaar project was decided in 2017, the Supreme Court only expounded the idea of privacy and related concepts at a doctrinal level, without a direct and immediate encounter with the executive, which, by that time, had completed the project.

On the other hand, in the Media One case, the court directly confronted the Centre, which unilaterally cancelled the licence issued to the television channel citing "national security," and directed it to renew the licence. It considered all the major doctrinal issues such as the right to fair hearing, proportionality standard and public interest claims and issued directives to the Centre in concrete terms.

In the global context, populist autocracies try to crush the judiciary with their majoritarian impulse. In Israel, the present mass movement is predominantly against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's move to meddle with the independence of the judiciary. A significant study by David Landau and Rosalind Dixon on Abusive Judicial Review (2020) illustrates the various instances in which authoritarian regimes adopted different methods to destabilise judicial systems. In Bolivia, judges have been arbitrarily dismissed in the last few years. In Poland, by lowering the retirement age of judges, the regime sent out older judges and inducted new persons who are loyalists of the government. The executive in India delays making judicial appointments as suggested by the collegium. There is sometimes even public admonition of the judiciary by the executive in India.

> The Media One judgment has underlined the institutional capacity of the court in troubled political times

The court and the Opposition

The Media One judgment was delivered in this scenario. It shows the judiciary's effort to resist majoritarian overtones. The court has taken a counter majoritarian role, which is qualitatively different from the role that the Opposition is supposed to play. Landau and Dixon have opined that "judges are increasingly being called upon to intervene to protect democracy or to engage in a form of democratic hedging."

American jurist Mark Tushnet correctly said that "the Constitution matters because it provides a structure for our politics" and that "it's politics, not 'the Constitution,' that is the ultimate – and sometimes the proximate – source for whatever protection we have for our fundamental rights." In other words, in the absence of a politics that supports the Constitution, the latter cannot survive. The task before the court, however, is not to uphold the Opposition's politics, even when it might be legitimate. Recently, for instance, the apex court rightly dismissed a plea by Opposition parties, which alleged arbitrary use of central probe agencies against them. The grievance is genuine, but it needs a political solution, not an adjudicatory resolution.

This is how the court's constitutional politics vary from the Opposition's politics. The court can only put forth a judicial or constitutional check against an aggrandising State. It cannot pose a political check, which can only happen by way of mass movements or electoral decisions. Yet, in the former, there is 'politics' involved and its impact could be political. It is this constitutional politics that enhances the intrinsic value of the Media One verdict. Yet, for the survival of the Constitution, we might need a struggle outside the court, which should complement the court's counter majoritarian postures.

The AAP's recent U-turns

The party has changed its strategy in dealing with Modi as well as the Congress

STATE OF PLAY

Nikhil M. Babu
nikhil.m@thehindu.co.in

On March 28, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal raised many eyebrows by alleging in the Delhi Assembly that industrialist Gautam Adani is merely a front for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the "money actually belongs" to Mr. Modi.

Mr. Kejriwal's relentless attacks against Mr. Modi over the past one and a half months show a change in the way he is dealing with his main political opponent. In February last year, in stark contrast to his early days as a politician when he referred to Mr. Modi as a "psychopath," a "shameless dictator," and a "coward," Mr. Kejriwal did not use the word "Modi" in any of the 38 speeches he made in different States after election dates were announced on January 8. He made an exception during two press conferences, but even those were not full-fledged attacks against Mr. Modi. Mr. Kejriwal's Twitter account revealed that he nearly stopped using the name "Modi" on May 23, 2019, the day the results of the general elections were announced and Mr. Modi came back to power. Sources in the AAP said this was a conscious decision since his attacks against the Prime Minister in the run-up to the 2019 elections did not help the AAP. But last year, as the Punjab elections got closer, he started referring to Mr. Modi again, though not as much as he is doing now.

The way the AAP is dealing with the Congress too has changed. The party used to skip most of the Opposition meetings in the past, as they were hosted by the Congress.

But it switched its strategy in the recently concluded Budget session of Parliament. It took part in all the Opposition meetings, and Mr. Kejriwal even extended support to Rahul Gandhi when the Congress leader was sentenced to two years in jail in a defamation case. When Mr. Kejriwal was called for questioning by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with an alleged excise scam, the Congress returned the favour, with its President Mallikarjun Kharge calling up Mr. Kejriwal to apparently talk about Opposition unity.

There are many reasons behind these changes. The first seems to be the CBI's arrest of Manish Sisodia, the second-most important leader in the AAP, in an alleged excise scam in February. Since then, the BJP has been claiming that Mr. Kejriwal is the brain behind the alleged scam. When asked about the change in the way the party is dealing with Mr. Modi, a party insider said, "Given the way Mr. Modi is going after Opposition parties, we had to attack him. We cannot choose not to."

The second reason is the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. On March 23, with an eye on the elections, Mr. Kejriwal launched a campaign from Jantar Mantar, "Modi Hatao, Desh Bachao." Last month, he also accepted the existence of the 'G-8' – a group of eight non-BJP, non-Congress Chief Ministers – after a letter by him inviting the other Chief Ministers for a dinner in Delhi leaked to the media. Although he dismissed reports that this is a political grouping and called it a "governance platform," sources said the AAP, the Trinamool Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi are working closely together to stitch a non-BJP, non-Congress alliance. Last week, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav met Mr. Kejriwal in Delhi, after meeting Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mr. Kharge. Earlier this week, when Gopal Rai, a member of the highest decision-making body of the AAP, was asked whether the party will be open to being a part of an alliance that includes the Congress, he did not confirm or deny the possibility.

Events in Delhi also explain the changes. Ever since the AAP assumed power in Delhi, the government has been engaged in power tussles with the Central government-appointed Lieutenant Governors (LGs) of Delhi. The strains between the government and the LGs have only worsened since Vinai Kumar Saxena, who is not a bureaucrat unlike his predecessor, took over in May last year. During a hearing in the Supreme Court in 2022, the Central government argued that Delhi should be under its control. Delhi is important to the AAP's politics as the party, which has now been given national status, is fighting elections in other States promising the 'Delhi model of governance'.

With his party being attacked from different sides, the embattled AAP chief seems to have been forced to change his strategy of dealing with the Congress as well as revert to his old ways of carrying out all-out attacks against Mr. Modi.

Pessimism continues to decline, though not as rapidly as before

Close to 52% of urban consumers felt that the economic situation has worsened, which is the lowest share since the pandemic outbreak

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

The share of urban consumers who were pessimistic about the Indian economy continued to decline in March though more than half of them said the situation has worsened compared to a year ago. Also, the rapid rate of decline in pessimism levels recorded in the previous six months weakened in March 2023.

Chart 1A shows the responses from a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) survey conducted across 19 major cities between March 2 and 11. When asked to comment on their current perception of the economic situation, 51.7% said it has worsened. This is the lowest share since the pandemic outbreak. However, the share of those who said it has worsened declined by over 3% points between July 2022 and January 2023. On the other hand, between January and March this year ,it came down by only 0.4% points – a relatively feeble decline.

Graph 1B shows that 47.9% of participants expressed a negative outlook on their present job situation. It is important to note that in the previous three surveys conducted in November 2022, January 2023 and March 2023, this share has consistently stayed under the halfway mark. After the economic downturn in 2019 and the pandemic, the majority (>50%) of respondents has maintained a pessimistic view since July 2019; however, this pattern has shifted.

Graph 1C shows that 28.1% of participants were negative about their current income levels. While this is the smallest share since the onset of the pandemic, it remains above pre-pandemic levels.

Worryingly, close to 93.8% of respondents said that price levels of commodities have increased compared to last year (**Chart 1D**).

While pre-pandemic levels of optimism have not been fully restored, the extent of negativity regarding the economy, employment, and income has decreased. Nevertheless, rising prices continue to be a significant concern.

Chart 2 shows the growth in new orders received by 762 manufacturing companies surveyed by the RBI. The quarter-on-quarter growth of new orders received turned positive in Q3FY23 (October-December 2022) after being in the negative in the previous quarter. The chart also shows the response to a survey conducted in 1,066 manufacturing companies about their order books. It shows the share of companies which said new orders had increased. A healthy share of 37% firms said their order books had increased in the January-March quarter.

Chart 3 shows the results of the RBI's survey that capture the growth in services and infrastructure. The latest data are for January-March 2023. In the survey, 638 companies were asked to comment on their turnover. The chart plots the net response – the difference between those who said it had increased and those who said it had decreased. A positive number points to a higher share of companies recording an increase in turnover and vice-versa. The chart hints at a recovery in the turnover of both the sectors. In the latest period, 57.3% of service sector companies reported that their turnovers had increased, 34% reported that there was no change and 8.5% said their turnovers had decreased. So, the net response was +48.9% points – much higher than the pre-pandemic levels. A similarly positive net response was reported by infrastructure firms.

Chart 4 plots the results of the RBI's quarterly bank lending survey. Senior loan officers were asked to assess loan demand. The latest data are for January-March 2023. The chart shows the net response. There was a slight downturn in the demand for loans in the service, infrastructure, manufacturing and retail sectors and an uptick in the agriculture sector.

Tracking recovery

The charts are based on data collated from various surveys conducted by the RBI on consumer confidence, orders received by manufacturing firms, the turnover of the services and infrastructure sectors, and demand for loans

Chart 1: The charts show the results of the RBI's consumer confidence survey conducted across 19 major cities between March 2 and 11, 2023

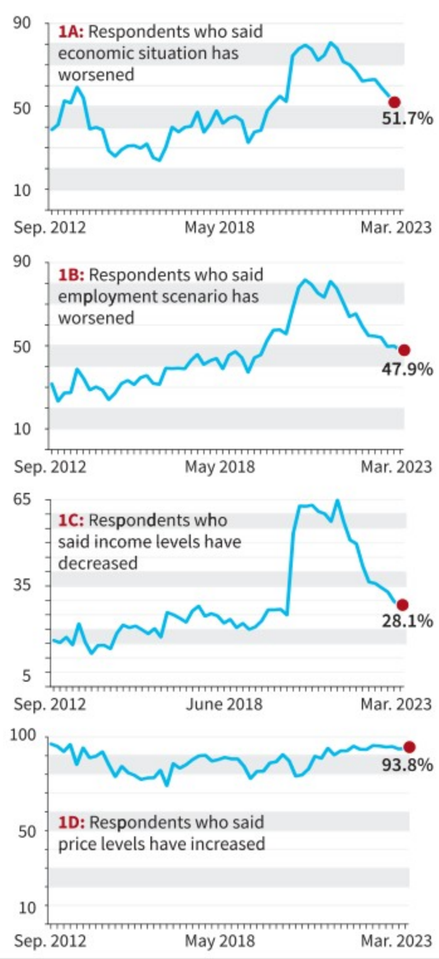


Chart 2: The chart shows q-o-q growth (%) in new orders received by manufacturing firms and the survey response of such companies

Share of firms which said new orders had increased (%), left axis
37.2%
0.5%
Quarter-on-quarter growth of new orders (%), right axis
Q1 2008-09
Q4 2022-23

Chart 3: The chart plots the net response of the services and infrastructure sectors

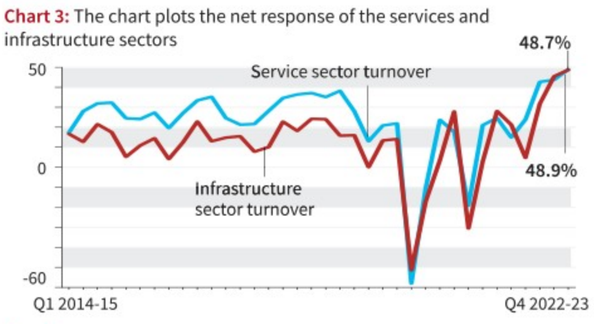
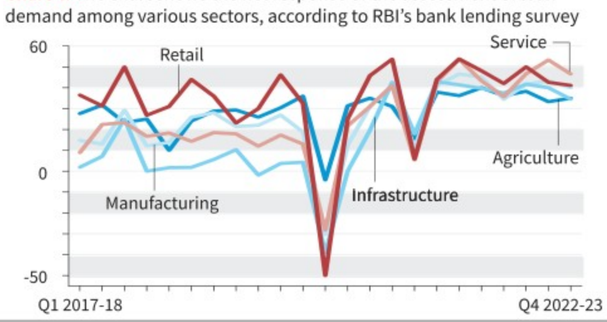


Chart 4: The chart shows the net response of the assessment of loan demand among various sectors, according to RBI's bank lending survey



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 19, 1973

Trade sanctions against Rhodesia ineffective

London, April 18: The sheer futility of international trade sanctions against Rhodesia became evident after the realisation here that Rhodesia exported goods worth £137 million defying sanctions last year. According to local reports on top of the buyers is the United States followed by West Germany, Japan, France and Holland. All these countries have done lucrative trade with the Rhodesians in chrome ore and tobacco. Some of Rhodesian chrome ore has been carried by British ships. The United States Supreme Court ruled two days ago that congressional action permitting imports of Rhodesian ore was legal. In Britain there is a strong Tory backbench pressure on the British Government to life or phase out sanctions against Rhodesia. They argue that if Britain's major trading partners are not prepared to enforce sanctions against Rhodesia as stipulated by the United Nations, then why should Britain alone continue to remain out of Rhodesian trade. Now there is the prospect that the Rhodesians will boast their exports by airlifting beef to near-starved Europe in the newly-acquired three Boeing 720 aircraft. Three Boeings appeared at Salisbury airport last weekend after apparently being flown from Switzerland by way of Portugal. The Rhodesians have bought three Boeings from a Liechtenstein company which may be a cover up for some European or American sellers. The Rhodesians may have paid less than £200,000 for each Boeing. These are medium range old model jets. Mr. Rodger Hawkins, Rhodesian Minister for Transport, yesterday spoke of the possibility of establishing an international route to operate the Rhodesian Boeings.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 19, 1923

In Iraq

According to a Turkish official message from Constantinople, British aeroplanes have bombed villages in the neighbourhood of Sulainnamieh (Mesopotamia). Reuter learns in London that the operations are connected with Sheikh Mahud who has been intriguing with the Turks since his return from India notwithstanding his protestations of friendship to the British. The latter offered the Sheikh safe conduct to Baghdad, but he refused to avail himself of it, whereupon punitive operations were commenced.

From Page One

It's Bilkis today, it can be anybody tomorrow: SC

"If you cannot show reasons [for the remission], we will draw our own conclusions about your reasons... We will say your reasons do not hold water ... You are in contempt... What is the reason for not showing them to the court? Why are you shying away?" Justice Joseph asked.

Justice Nagarathna reasoned that the Centre and Gujarat would anyway have to show the documents to make a case for review. Review petitions are usually filed before the same Bench whose order is under challenge.

"So why not show the files today? You will be on a better footing," Justice Nagarathna asked.

Mr. Raju, pressing his hand on a stack of paper, said he had the files "ready" with him as directed by the court, but the Centre and Gujarat "wished" to file a review first.

"The State and Centre wish to file a review against the order directing them to be 'ready' with the files?" Justice Joseph asked.

The law officer later went on to change tune, saying that he had not seen the files himself. "I will consider [filing the review petition]... I have not decided to file".

Initially in the hearing, Mr. Raju sought an adjournment citing a delay in getting the records translated from Gujarati. He also said pleadings were still incomplete in the case.

At the end of the hearing, when asked by the court when he would file the review petition, Mr. Raju said rather cryptically, "If I am there, we will file it on Monday. Otherwise, I am not there".

The court scheduled the next hearing on May 2 for final disposal.

SC to examine Special Marriage Act

At one point, the Chief Justice asked whether the court could develop a situation of a "civil union" and leave the legislature and society to evolve into a state of greater acceptance over the future.

At this, senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy and advocate Arundhati Katju intervened to point out that most legal rights flow from blood relationships and "full marriages". "Anything short of a full marriage, we will have to approach the court again and again for redressal of individual discriminations," Ms. Guruswamy submitted.

Mr. Rohatgi said that Ms. Guruswamy's submissions touched upon "absolute day-to-day issues".

"Do you know, My Lords, under the Income Tax Act, two partners cannot give gifts to each other without paying tax," he pointed out.

Earlier, Chief Justice Chandrachud told Mr. Mehta: "You are making an important value judgment that the notion of a biological man and the notion of a biological woman is an absolute."

"But a 'biological man' means a biological man, it is not a notion," Mr. Mehta protested.

"Of course it is. There is no absolute concept of a man or an absolute concept of a woman at all... A man or a woman is not a definition of what their genitals are, it is far more complex. Even when the Special Marriage Act says 'man' and 'woman', the very notion of a man and a woman is not an absolute on what genitals you have," the CJI shot back.

Mr. Mehta continued to submit that a "biological man means the genitals one has", though adding that he did not want to use that "expression".

He argued that the law differentiated between a man and a woman. "Your Lordships will have to otherwise decide that marriage is a fundamental right de hors (not including) the law," the Solicitor-General said.

The government argued that society may not accept that same-sex marriages ought to be on a par with heterosexual marriages.

Justice Kaul said that it was "not mandatory that the whole society should accept something" for the court to recognise rights.

"But several Acts would become unworkable... I may have the biological attributes of a man, but I consider myself a woman... Should the Code of Criminal Procedure treat me as a woman then," Mr. Mehta questioned.

Mr. Rohatgi submitted, "Laws will change, society will evolve and the courts need to rule when called upon by citizens who seek recognition of their fundamental rights to equality and equal treatment to lead a dignified life... We seek a declaration that we have a right to get married. This should be recognised by the state by virtue of an imprimatur of the court. Our right should be made part of the Special Marriage Act. Once that happens society will recognise that we have equal rights. Then two people can hold hands and walk in the streets without social stigma following them everywhere."

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind, said that the court should either go into everything or nothing and not examine the issue "piecemeal", leaving confusion in its wake.

"The immediate question here before you is not the right to equality, dignity, privacy of LGBT persons. The question is the right of conferment of socio-legal status and whether that can be done by judicial adjudication," Mr. Mehta said.

He said the court should not leave "a few windows open" as this would pave the way for all the doors and even the entire house to open in the future.

"The windows are willingly going to open, no matter what we decide... The windows have already started opening up," Chief Justice Chandrachud responded.

Mr. Mehta said that the "acceptance of any relationship by the society is never dependent on legislation or judgments".

"It can come from only within the society," he said.

Queer partners ask how is marriage an urban elitist matter

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

Kajal (left) and Bhawna

Among the 20 petitioners seeking legalisation of same-sex marriage by the Supreme Court are a couple who say their lives are proof against the Centre's stance that the petition reflects "urban elitist views". Kajal, 28, and Bhawna, 22, hailing from a small town in northern India, ask how their appeal to enjoy the same rights as heterosexual citizens is urban or elitist.

The couple lament that even five years after they started living in, they are still seen as "room mates". Ms. Kajal and Ms. Bhawna hail from small towns in Punjab and Haryana, respectively, where there is no acceptance or even acknowledgement of a queer cohabiting couple. For them, the petition to legalise same-sex marriage is a step towards being recognised as a couple and an attempt to secure the civil rights that heterosexual couples have access to.

The women moved the court as a last resort to ensure a safer life and to gain the right to live with dignity and self-respect, and the right to adopt children. "Like heterosexual couples, queer couples should also have the choice to get married and be treated as equal citizens," they said.

While their families did not accept them, Ms. Bhawna's family hounded and threatened them and made multiple false accusations against Ms. Kajal. "After my family found out about my sexuality, they started abusing me and threatened to stop my education. They attempted to get me married to a man, but I persisted," Ms. Bhawna said.

The duo represents many such queer couples from small towns in India, who need the legal sanction to live a dignified life, where their relationship is acknowledged. "Unlike many queer couples who hail from metros, we are not fortunate enough to be surrounded by friends and family members who understand cohabitation," Ms. Kajal says. She tells *The Hindu* that everybody, queer or straight, is born equal and should have the same rights. "Not allowing marriage equality is discrimination," chimes in Ms. Bhawna.

Leave decision on same-sex union to Parliament, says govt.

'We are in charge,' says SC, responding to argument by Solicitor-General that 'five brilliant individuals' cannot make a decision for entire nation

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The court battle for legal recognition of same-sex marriage began on Tuesday with a brief but intense sparring session between the Supreme Court and the Union government, which saw Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud sharply reminding the government that "we are in charge".

The remark from the CJI came in response to preliminary objections from the government, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, that "five brilliant individuals" cannot decide for the entire nation and create a "new socio-legal relationship" within the institution of marriage.

Mr. Mehta said the petitioners seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage should first address the government's preliminary objection that Parliament, and not the court, should consider and decide the issue. "I am sorry, Mr. Solicitor-General, we are in charge... Don't tell us how to conduct our proceedings," the CJI said.

The Solicitor-General, however, pressed on, arguing that the petitions were not maintainable in the absence of including the States as parties to the case.

"Marriage is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. We cannot have one State opposing same-sex marriage and another legislating in favour of it. Every State has separate rules under the Special Marriage Act or the Hindu Marriage Act. I or any other person in this court may have a clear view of the issue, but those are not the views of the nation... So let Parliament consider and decide this issue," he submitted.

Mr. Mehta said he would have to take instructions on the government's "further participation" in the case. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul intervened to ask, "Are you saying you will not participate in the proceedings? It does not look nice when you say the government will not participate." "I am saying this is not an issue to be decided by five brilliant individuals [the Bench] and five learned individuals [petitioners' lawyers] on this side..." Mr. Mehta said.

> Are you saying you will not participate in the proceedings? It does not look nice when you say the government will not participate
>
> **JUSTICE SANJAY KAUL**
> Supreme Court

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and K.V. Vishwanathan, for the petitioners, said their fundamental rights could not, and need not, wait for Parliament to legislate.

They made it clear that they do not want to touch upon the realm of personal laws, thus obviating the need to involve the States. Mr. Rohatgi said that he was only seeking an interpretation of the Special Marriage Act to include same-sex marriages.

Karti Chidambaram

ED attaches Karti's assets estimated at ₹11 crore

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday attached properties estimated at ₹11.04 crore belonging to Congress MP Karti Chidambaram, in the INX money laundering case, an official statement said.

The ED said that out of four attached properties, one is an immoveable asset in Kodagu. A provisional order under the PMLA has been issued against Mr. Karti, the statement said.

Mr. Karti, son of former Union Minister P. Chidambaram, is the MP for Sivaganga and was arrested in the INX case by the CBI and the ED.

The case pertains to alleged illegal gratification received "directly or indirectly" from INX Media Pvt Limited to which Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approval was granted during the tenure of his father as Minister in the UPA government.

Deadline for Aadhaar-based payment under MGNREGS extended till June 30

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Union government had said only 80% of beneficiaries are now eligible for the Aadhaar-based payment system. FILE PHOTO

Following sustained protests by Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers, the Union government has extended the deadline till June 30 for workers to mandatorily use the Aadhaar-based payment system for receiving wages.

On March 31, the earlier deadline, the Union Rural Development Ministry's own data pointed out the beneficiary accounts eligible for Aadhaar-based payments were only 80%, sources said. Despite the extension, 20% of the MGNREGS workers were off the grid. The rural employment law clearly states that the workers have to be paid within 15 days of doing the job. The order, therefore, was directly interfering with the implementation of the law.

The NREGA Sangharsh Morcha, a workers collective platform focused on the scheme, has been protesting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi for the past 55 days on the various problems plaguing the scheme.

One of the issues is regarding the Aadhaar-based payment system, which they call cumbersome especially for workers who are not conversant with the banking system. For each day's paperwork, they end up losing the day's wages. A delegation of the Morcha met the Union Rural Development officials thrice in the span of their protest.

Heeding their requests, last week, the Ministry extended the deadline to June 30.

"For the Aadhaar-based option to work, not only the worker's must have job card and bank account be seeded with Aadhaar, the account has also to be connected to the National Payments Corporation of India. This connection, known as mapping can be very cumbersome, because it requires meeting stringent KYC requirements, resolving possible inconsistencies between the Aadhaar database and bank account," Jean Dreze, one of the key architects of the scheme, had said.

INBRIEF

231 antiquities brought back to India since 2014: Minister

The Union government on Tuesday said a total of 231 antiquities of Indian origin had been brought back to India since 2014, and close to 72 were in the process of being repatriated from various countries. "The Prime Minister himself has discussed this matter with global leaders and many multilateral institutions, and today, innumerable countries are themselves reaching out to India to send back stolen artefacts and antiquities," Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy said in a World Heritage Day note. He said the efforts were part of the government's steps to preserve civilisational ethos, protect cultural and spiritual heritage and propagate Indian knowledge systems and traditions in the world.

Murugan's *Pyre* fails to enter International Booker shortlist

Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's novel *Pookuzhi*, translated into English as *Pyre*, failed to make the shortlist for the International Booker Prize 2023. It is one of the 13 novels that found a place in the longlist. "It is a great journey. Making the longlist itself is a great achievement as it helped in popularising the novel and publishers promoted it with the sticker about its place in the longlist," Mr. Murugan told *The Hindu*. Translated into English by Aniruddhan Vasudevan, the novel exposes the ugly face of casteism that destroys the life of inter-caste couple Kumaresan and Saroja. Mr. Murugan's novels *Poonachi or The Story of a Black Goat* and *Arthanari* and *Alavayan* together were shortlisted for the noted JCB Prize in 2018. He received ₹1 lakh for making the shortlist.

IIT Council says zero tolerance for discrimination

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

There is a need to reduce pressure and fear of failure and rejection among students and there should be zero tolerance for any kind of discrimination in the premier Indian Institutes of Technology, the IIT Council decided in its 55th meeting on Tuesday.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan chaired the meeting, held after a gap of two years, and asked the IITs to ensure multiple entry-exit options for students. He also directed the Higher Education Department to prepare a detailed report on the issue and raised concern about student dropouts in the premier technical institutions.

Citing Balakot strike, IAF chief says air power opened up more options for leadership

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

IAF chief V.R. Chaudhari

Operations such as Balakot have also demonstrated that given the political will, air power can be effectively used in a 'no war, no peace situation' under the nuclear overhang without escalating into a full-blown conflict and has opened up options for the leadership, said Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) V. R. Chaudhari on Tuesday. "To see first and see clearly, to reach first and reach farthest and to strike first and strike with precision" will be the mantra for fighting modern wars, he said.

"This is very important due to the nature of our adversaries. The response options available to the leadership have suddenly increased and increasingly air power has become an option of choice due to inherent flexibility and unmatched precision strike capability. Aerospace control and dominance will become a crucial factor in future operations," ACM Chaudhari said speaking at the Marshal of the IAF Arjan Singh seminar organised by the Centre for Air Power Studies.

Further he said that India's security concerns necessitated that it put in place adequate military power that had the ability to "achieve deterrence, ensure information dominance, coerce when needed and provide multiple response options."

The foremost lesson that can be drawn from the 20th century and the early 21st century is that no war can be successfully prosecuted without aerospace power, the Air Chief stated. "Attributes of aerospace power enable the leadership to formulate an appropriate strategy with due cognizance given to the desired end state, conflict termination criteria and escalation matrix."

APPEAL

Mast Anburaj is 5 years old boy suffering from Beta Thalassemia Major. His family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of Rs.7,00,000/- to undergo Blood transfusion & Iron Chelation Therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. He needs your blessings and support Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai **will be acknowledged**. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No.:60182010063310, IFSC No.: CNRB0016018) favouring **Women's Welfare Syndicate** is exempted under 80G IT. Please give us your e-mail ID.
All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324, E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org
WWS

Trinamool leader Mukul Roy's Delhi visit shrouded in mystery

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Mystery shrouds the visit of Trinamool Congress leader Mukul Roy to New Delhi, as his son Subhrangshu Roy has lodged a missing complaint at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport police station here on Tuesday.

The veteran politician reportedly went missing on Monday evening and was seen at the Delhi airport later. He told journalists that he was visiting New Delhi without any reason and would remain in the national capital for a few days.

Speaking to presspersons, Subhrangshu Roy, who is a former Trinamool MLA, said that his father was suffering from a number of health issues, including dementia.

Mr. Subhrangshu raised questions as to who bought the flight tickets, and alleged that there was a conspiracy behind taking his father to New Delhi.

Political speculation was fuelled following a social media post by BJP leader Anupam Hazra that said "*Pratyabartan*" (Return).

Mr. Subhrangshu said it was an attempt to malign the Trinamool Congress. Later in the day, the police interrogated a local BJP leader in connection with Mr. Roy's New Delhi visit.

Congress demands White Paper on Pulwama attack

The party raises questions on 'intelligence failure' and 'security lapses', asks why travel by aircraft was denied to the CRPF jawans

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday demanded a White Paper on the Pulwama terror attack in light of allegations made by former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik that Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans had become easy targets as they were denied travel by aircraft and had to go by road from Jammu to Srinagar.

Addressing a joint press conference, Congress Delhi in-charge Shaktisinh Gohil and Colonel Rohit Chaudhry (retd) and Wing Commander Anuma Acharya (retd), both associated with the party, posed a series of questions to the Narendra Modi government on the terror attack that killed 40 CRPF jawans in February 2019.

They said the White Paper should provide answers to questions on "intelligence failures".

Mr. Gohil said the party did not make any political statement in 2019, but was now raising the issue since the former Army chief General Shankar Roychowdhury (retd) had also expressed concern.

Strong resistance: Youth Congress activists staging a protest against the Centre in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Colonel Chaudhry and Wing Commander Acharya stated that the defence fraternity and the entire nation shared the concerns of General Roychowdhury and Mr. Malik. Why were 2,500 CRPF soldiers not allowed to travel by air despite their request and why were intelligence inputs between January 2, 2019 and February 13, 2019 that warned of a terrorist attack ignored.

Colonel Chaudhry asked, "How did the militants procure around 300 kg of explosives? How could this huge quantity remain undetected despite heavy security presence in south Kashmir?"

"Four years after the attack, how far has the inquiry progressed? Why is there a delay in completing the inquiry and letting the nation know its findings," he added.

Wing Commander Acharya said, "The tri-service courier of the Air Force is always ready. So, why were troops denied aircraft? These questions must be answered in a comprehensive report."

The two Army veterans said that in previous terror attacks, such as the Mumbai blasts in 2011 and the Pathankot attack in 2016, inquiries were held and findings made public. This was essential to establish the truth, fix responsibility, and strengthen India's national security, they said.

SC to hear on April 24 plea seeking probe into killing of Atiq Ahmed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear on April 24 a petition seeking an independent investigation by a body headed by a retired top court judge into the killings of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf in full public view of television cameras in Uttar Pradesh.

The petition filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari was mentioned for an urgent hearing before Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.

Mr. Tiwari has also sought an inquiry into the 183 encounters that have taken place in Uttar Pradesh since 2017.

Atiq, 60, and Ashraf, who were handcuffed, were shot dead by three men posing as journalists when they were answering reporters' queries while being escorted by police personnel to a medical college in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj for a check-up on the night of April 15.

183 encounters

Just hours before the shooting, the last rites of Atiq's son Asad, who, along with one of his associates, was gunned down in a police encounter in Jhansi on April 13, were held.

The U.P. Police said on April 14 that it had gunned down 183 alleged criminals in encounters in the six years of the Yogi Adityanath government and this included Asad and his accomplice.

"Issue guidelines/directions to safeguard the rule of law by constituting an Independent Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Justice to inquire into the 183 encounters which had occurred since 2017 as stated by Uttar Pradesh Special Director General of Police (Law and Order) and also to inquire into the police custody murder of Atiq and Ashraf," the petition said.

Ganga mission clears projects for ₹638 crore

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Jal Shakti Ministry's National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) cleared eight projects worth ₹638 crore on Tuesday.

The projects include the clean-up of the Hindon, a tributary of the Yamuna, stretches of which rank as among the most polluted in the country. This clean-up comprises four projects, worth ₹407.39 crore, approved for pollution abatement in Shamli district, Uttar Pradesh. Once commissioned, the projects will stem the flow of polluted water into the Krishna river, which, as of now, discharges pollution from Shamli district into the Hindon.

A project for the development of seven ghats in Prayagraj was also approved.

Two more sewage treatment projects were approved, one each in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

Another project for Akhand Param Dham ghat development, at a total cost of ₹2.12 crore, was approved for Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

No mafia can spread terror in U.P., says CM

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

In his first public appearance after the murders of former MP Atiq Ahmed and his brother Khalid Azim, alias Ashraf, outside a hospital in Prayagraj on April 15, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said at an event in Lucknow on Tuesday that no mafia could spread terror in the State anymore, and those who were causing 'trouble' for the State were in trouble today.

He said the State government was capable of safeguarding the interests of investors.

Mr. Adityanath attacked the previous Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party governments for the poor law and order scenario between 2007 and 2017, alleging that the State was known for riots and crimes. "Before 2017, Uttar Pradesh was known for crime and riots. More than 700 riots took place between 2012 and 2017 in the State, while over 364 riots occurred between 2007 and 2012. But not a single riot has taken place from 2017 till now," he said.

Ajit Pawar denies rumours that he is crossing over to BJP

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Attempting to put an end to rumours that he is joining the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with a section of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLAs, Maharashtra Leader of the Opposition Ajit Pawar on Tuesday categorically denied them, and said the "NCP was a family" which would keep working under party president Sharad Pawar's leadership.

Speaking to presspersons in Mumbai, Mr. Ajit Pawar said that "baseless speculation" was being spread about him and his colleagues in the NCP.

"This news [of defecting to the BJP] has no basis in truth. I think it is time to put a full stop on all this," he said.

Mr. Ajit Pawar firmly denied news reports that he had allegedly taken the signatures of 40 NCP legislators with whom he would split the NCP and join the ruling BJP-Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena dispensation.

NCP to remain in MVA

He further said when the NCP as a party had already taken the decision to stay within the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance [of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena faction, the NCP and the Congress] in the State, there was "no need to take anyone's signature."

Mr. Ajit Pawar categorically said that whatever the Supreme Court's decision on the disqualification petition of the 16 MLAs belonging to the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena camp, the NCP would remain united, and urged his party workers to focus on building his party as well as strengthening the MVA alliance.

The NCP leader further observed that a probe by Central agencies was no indication that he was planning to jump ship to the other side.

"Many [non-BJP] Opposition leaders are facing ED, CBI probes. Even Arvind Kejriwal is facing the heat. That is no reason to assume anyone will move over to the BJP," he said.

Mr. Ajit Pawar further clarified that the "absence" of the NCP logo on his social media account was blown out of proportion. Urging the media to stop indulging in wild speculation, he wondered: "Should I write on an affidavit to say that I will be staying with NCP?"

Given that the buzz around Mr. Ajit Pawar's "imminent defection" had been growing louder in the past few days, his uncle, Mr. Sharad Pawar, was compelled to break his silence by remarking that reports of a major schism within his party were "meaningless" and that the NCP was working "as one united party."

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
LOWER CAUVERY BASIN CIRCLE, THANJAVUR - 613 001.
GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Ref No : DB/WRD/ERM-GAC/AIIB/2023 Dated : 06.04.2023
The Government of India has applied for financing the amount of US$ 230 million equivalent from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (hereafter AIIB) towards the cost of the Extension, Renovation and Modernization of Grand Anicut Canal System Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, works, non-consulting services and consulting services to be procured under this project. Please refer to **www.wrd.tn.gov.in** for further details.
DIPR/ 391 /DISPLAY/2023
Superintending Engineer, WRD
Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur-613 001.
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PWD CIRCLE KOTA
No. 3234 Date:- 29.03.2023
NOTICE INVITING BID
(NIT No. 23/2022-23)
Bid for major repair of roads of Nagar Nigam and Nagar Palika in District Kota on Rate contract basis, is Invited from interested bidders upto 06.00 PM of 25.04.2023 (Tuesday). Other Particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rj.nic.in) of the Rajasthan State. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs 6240.00 Lacs.
UBN No.:-
PWD2223WLOB20426, PWD2223WLOB20427, PWD2223WLOB20428, PWD2223WLOB20429, PWD2223WLOB20430, PWD2223WLOB20431, PWD2223WLOB20432, PWD2223WLOB20433, PWD2223WLOB20434, PWD2223WLOB20435 & PWD2223WLOB20436
(R.K.Soni)
Superintending Engineer
DIPR/C/5275 P.W.D. Circle Kota

CSIR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
HYDERABAD - 500007.
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW / NOTIFICATION NO. 06/2023
CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad is conducting Walk-in-Interviews on 25th April, 2023 for the positions of Project Staff having qualifications of MSc or BSc Chemistry / B.Pharmacy / Diploma in Electrical & Electronics Engineering / Any Graduate Degree etc.,
For full details visit our website **www.iictindia.org**
Sd/-
Controller of Administration

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008.Phone:28191890/28190259; Fax: 044 -28190636

Sl. No.	Online Tender no. / Rate Contract (RC) No./ item with qty./ Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre Bid	Last Date Submission	Opening
1	Online Tender No.E955/USG/KMSSH/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt: 18.04.2023, High End 4D (Live 3D) Echocardiography System (2) – Rs.5,725/-	19.04.2023 to 02.05.2023	24.04.2023 11.00 AM	03.05.2023 11.00 AM	03.05.2023 12.00 Noon
2	Online Tender No.E956/SCOPE/KMSSH/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt: 18.04.2023, Complete High-Definition Endoscopy System (1 Set) – Rs.5,725/-	19.04.2023 to 02.05.2023	24.04.2023 11.30 AM	03.05.2023 11.00 AM	03.05.2023 12.00 Noon
3	Online Tender No.E957/XR/KMSSH/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt: 18.04.2023, 100mA High Frequency Mobile Digital Radiography System (1) – Rs.5,725/-	19.04.2023 to 02.05.2023	24.04.2023 12.00 Noon	03.05.2023 11.00 AM	03.05.2023 12.00 Noon
4	Online Tender No.E958/EEG/KMSSH/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt: 18.04.2023, 128 Channel Video EEG (1) – Rs.5,725/-	20.04.2023 to 03.05.2023	25.04.2023 11.00 AM	04.05.2023 11.00 AM	04.05.2023 12.00 Noon
5	Online Tender No.E959/EMG/KMSSH/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt: 18.04.2023, NCS/EMG/EP (1) – Rs.3,435/-	20.04.2023 to 03.05.2023	25.04.2023 11.30 AM	04.05.2023 11.00 AM	04.05.2023 12.00 Noon
6	Online Tender No.E960/TCD/KMSSH/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt: 18.04.2023, Transcranial Doppler machine with robotic head frame (1) – Rs.3,435/-	20.04.2023 to 03.05.2023	25.04.2023 12.00 Noon	04.05.2023 11.00 AM	04.05.2023 12.00 Noon
7	Online Tender No.E961/Scope/KMSSH/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt: 18.04.2023, Digital Cholangioscopy System (1)– Rs.3,435/-	21.04.2023 to 04.05.2023	26.04.2023 11.00 AM	05.05.2023 11.00 AM	05.05.2023 12.00 Noon
8	Online Tender No.E962/CT/KMSSH/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt: 18.04.2023, 128 Slice CT (1) – Rs.5,725/-	21.04.2023 to 04.05.2023	26.04.2023 12.00 Noon	05.05.2023 11.00 AM	05.05.2023 12.00 Noon
9	Online Tender No.E963/CATH/KMSSH/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt: 18.04.2023, Biplane Cath Lab (1) – Rs.5,725/-	24.04.2023 to 08.05.2023	02.05.2023 11.00 AM	09.05.2023 11.00 AM	09.05.2023 12.00 Noon
10	Online RC Tender No.E964/DIAT/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt: 18.04.2023, Vessel Sealing System (4) – Rs.2,290/-	25.04.2023 to 10.05.2023	03.05.2023 11.00 AM	11.05.2023 11.00 AM	11.05.2023 12.00 Noon
11	Online RC Tender No.E965/ANS/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt: 18.04.2023, Boyles Apparatus (37) – Rs.5,725/-	25.04.2023 to 10.05.2023	03.05.2023 12.00 Noon	11.05.2023 11.00 AM	11.05.2023 12.00 Noon
12	Online RC Tender No.E966/ANS/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt: 18.04.2023, Anesthesia Workstation (39) – Rs.5,725/-	26.04.2023 to 29.05.2023	04.05.2023 11.00 AM	30.05.2023 11.00 AM	30.05.2023 12.00 Noon
13	Online RC Tender No.E967/CR/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt: 18.04.2023, Computed Radiography (39) – Rs.5,725/-	26.04.2023 to 29.05.2023	04.05.2023 12.00 Noon	30.05.2023 11.00 AM	30.05.2023 12.00 Noon

For details visit www.tenders.tn.gov.in and TNMSC website www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in
DIPR / 2172 / TENDER / 2023
General Manager (Equipment)
" சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
4th Floor, Felicity Square Building, Opp. AG Office, Statue, Thiruvananthapuram - 695001 +91 - 0471 - 4010374
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E- TENDER NOTICE
Request for proposal (RFP) for Selection of System Integrator for Implementing Passenger Information System and Surveillance system for the selected buses in Trivandrum District

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	Bid Submission Last Date
1	Request for proposal (RFP) for Selection of System Integrator for Implementing Passenger Information System and Surveillance system for the selected buses in Trivandrum District	2023_SCTLT 570455_1	02.05.2023 01:00 PM

Date and Time of opening Price Bid:
All the documents and details are available on the E procurement website.
Bids are only accepted online on the website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**
(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
PHED JAIPUR REGION-II, Jaipur
Email:- aceregion2jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in Phone No:- 0141.2702700
No:- ACE-II/Ar.(S-I)/2022-23/20959-969 Date:- 29.03.23
Notice Inviting Bid
Bid for Work of Design and Construction of 01 MLD Capacity Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) and P, L & J of Recycled Water Pipeline in the Zone-1 (Campus area of Rajasthan University) under jurisdiction of City Div. I (South) PHED Jaipur (NIT no. 63/2022-23) is invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM, 27.04.2023.
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and PHED departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 573.33 Lacs.
UBN PHE2223WLOB15413
Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/5331 PHED Jaipur Region-II Jaipur

Telangana Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation
Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Govt.of Telangana State
Lr.No. 226/Recruit/TUFIDC/NIUM/2021, Date : 18-04-2023
Hiring of Chartered Accountant (Contract Basis) for utilizing services for AMRUT (12 towns), AMRUT 2.0 (143 ULBs) Scheme
TUFIDC is inviting application from eligible professionals for following Position:

Job Role	Number of Positions	Salary (Per Month)	Experience
Chartered Accountant	1 Position	1.00 to 1.25 Lakhs	3-5 years and age not more than 40 years

Interested Candidates can apply on or before April 30th 2023. Only Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. For More details visit **www.nium.org.in/careers** or email: **hr@nium.org.in.**
DIPR R.O.No. : 52-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

राष्ट्रीय मात्स्यिकी विकास बोर्ड
National Fisheries Development Board
मत्स्यपालन विभाग/Department of Fisheries
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय / Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
भारत सरकार / Government of India
स्तम्भ संख्या-235, पी.वी.एन.आर एक्सप्रेस वे, डाक-एस.वी.पी.एन.पी. ए, हैदराबाद- 500052
Pillar No: 235, PVNR Expressway, SVPNPA Post, Hyderabad-500 052
फ़ोन/ Phone No. 040- 24000201; फैक्स/ Fax No: 040-2401 5568; मेल/ Mail: info.nfdb@nic.in
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
'O&M' of Phase-1 and 'DBFOT' of Phase-2 of the 'Integrated Coastal Aquaculture Facilities' Mulapolam Village, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh in PPP Mode
NFDB/Division I/Mulapolam Land Development/2020-2021 Dt. 19-04-2023
National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB); Dept. of Fisheries (DoF); Govt. of India (GoI), intends to select an experienced and capable 'Private Entity' for the 'Operation & Management' (O&M) of 'Phase-1' and Design, Build, Finance, Operate & Transfer (DBFOT) of 'Phase-2' of the **Coastal Aquaculture Facilities** proposed in 57.00 Acres of 'Beachfront Land Parcel' with Fresh Water, Seawater & Brackish Water Resources with an estimated 'Project Cost' of **Rs.55.00 Crores** at Mulapolam, Srikakulam Dist., Andhra Pradesh in PPP Mode.
Issue of RFP Document & Pre bid Meeting:
- RFP Document can be downloaded from www.nfdb.gov.in; www.dof.gov.in; and https://www.eprocure.gov.in from **19.04.2023** till **19.05.2023**
- **Pre-Bid Meeting: 28.04.2023 at 11.00 Hrs. (IST) at NFDB, Hyderabad.**

Submission of Bids: **Online only** Bidders shall upload their bids at the 'GoI' **eProcurement Portal: https://www.eprocure.gov.in** on or before **19.05.2023** before **16.00 Hrs (IST)**
- 'Hard Copies of the Technical Bid' shall be submitted for reference on or before **23.05.2023** before **16.00 Hrs (IST)** at the O/o. The Chief Executive, NFDB, Pillar No.: 235, PVNR Expressway, SVPNPA Post, Hyderabad-500052, Telangana State, India.

Amendments/Addendum/Corrigendum to the RFP, if any, shall be posted only on the NFDB Website: www.nfdb.gov.in; DoF Website: www.dof.gov.in; and GoI eProcurement Portal: https://www.eprocure.gov.in
Sd/-
Chief Executive, NFDB

OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL & HEALTH OFFICER DAUSA
No.2005 Date- 12-4-23
E-BIDS NOTICE INVITING BID : (RATE CONRACT)
E-BIDS FOR (ACCOMMODATION AND TRAINING HALL, FOOD AND REFRESHMENT & MEDICINE AND SURGICALS ITMES) OF SUBJECT MATTERS OF PROCUREMENT) ARE INVITED FROM INTERESTED BIDDERS UPTO 03-05-2023 TILL 1.00 PM. OTHER PARTICULARS OF THE BID MAY BE VISITED ON THE PROCUREMENT PORTAL (http://sppp.raj.nic.in & http://eproc.rajasthan.gov) in of the state. Its estimated value is Rs. 200.00 lack FOR ACCOMMODATION AND TRAINING HALL AND RS.70.00 LACKS FOR FOOD AND REFRESHMENT AND RS. 300.00 LACK FOR MEDICINE AND SURGICALS ITEMS only.
UBN NO.
(1) MHS2324SLRC00100
(2) MHS2324SLRC00101
(3) MHS2324GLRC00102
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (DHS)
& CHIEF MEDICAL & HEALTH OFFICER
DIPR/C/5383 DAUSA

MATSYAFED
E-TENDER NOTICE
Mfed/Mktg/M1/5531/2023-24 17/04/2023
Matsyafed invites online bids in two bid. system (Technical & Financial) for the supply of Nylon multifilament twine, **Nylon Multifilament Webbings, Nylon Monofilament Twine, Nylon Monofilament Webbings, HDPE Twine for Cages & Deep sea fishing, HDPE Fish Net Webbings, HDPE/PP Ropes, PVC Fishing Float, Plastic Fishing Float, Dyes, Fish Net Resin, HDPE Woven Sacks, Plastic Crates, Insulated Boxes, Life Saving Appliances, HDPE T&B Twine,Wire rope, Lead weight (Sinkers), Long line fishing items** to the net factories and OBM Division.
Last date of submission of e-bid: 02/05/2023
Date of opening of E-bid: 06/05/2023
For details visit: **http://etenders.kerala.gov.in.** Further clarifications Corrigendum in this regard will only be put up on **www.matsyafed.in.**
s/d GENERAL MANAGER
KERALA STATE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION FOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT LIMITED (MATSYAFED) KAMALESWARAM, MANACAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695009
Phone: 0471-2458606, 2457756, 2457172
Website: www.matsyafed.in Email: matsyafed@matsyafed.in
(917/d3/2023/I&PRD)

Government of Rajasthan
Local Self Government Department
(Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan, Jaipur)
G-3, Rajmahal Residency, New Civil lines, Railway Crossing, Jaipur
Tel No. : +91 141 2222469 Fax No.: +91 141 2222403
Web site : www.lsg.urban.rajasthan.gov.in
No: F55()PA/CE/DLB/SBM2.0/processing of waste /2023/29679
Date 10/04/2023
Notice Inviting Bids (NIB) Second call
UBN No: DLB2324WLOB00993
Online Technical and Financial Bids in Single Stage two envelops are invited of behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by Directorate of Local Bodies for Establishment and Development of Solid Waste Processing Plant (Compost + RDF) scalable further as per the requirements with Operation & Maintenance for 20 years on VGF basis as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 as Amended time to time and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 guidelines for Various ULBs up to **15.05.2023.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement Portal (http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the State; and LSG Department website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs.132 Cr.**
No: F55()PA/CE/DLB/SBM2.0/processing of waste /2023/29680-686
DIPR/C/5393 Director cum Special Secretary

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project Area 1) Request for proposal RFP for Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount (Exclusive Of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram.				
1	Road ID 185 (MRT Road)	2023_SCTLT_552621_3	Rs.1,66,77,152	24/04/2023
2	Road ID 31A (Keezhe Thampanoor Road)	2023_SCTLT_551304_2	Rs.3,20,36,478	24/04/2023
3	Road ID 180 & 181 (Kamukuvilakom Road and Ankalamman Nagar)	2023_SCTLT_551497_2	Rs.3,51,84,212	24/04/2023
4	Road ID 100 (Justice Sankaranarayana Street)	2023_SCTLT_551252_3	Rs.2,64,00,214	24/04/2023

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e- mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website.
Bids are only accepted online on the Website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**
(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

Origins of Operation Lotus in Karnataka

Operation Kamala (Operation Lotus), a term much bandied about in Karnataka politics, was first coined in 2008, when former Minister and mining baron G. Janardhana Reddy and his associates allegedly used all tricks in the book to secure support from legislators bypassing the anti-defection law to bring the BJP to power.

In the 2008 Assembly election, the BJP won 110 seats, just three seats short of a simple majority. But with the support of six Independent MLAs, B.S. Yediyurappa was sworn in as Chief Minister, to establish the first BJP government in South India. To secure stability, the BJP lured MLAs from the Congress and the Janata Dal(S).

Now, Mr. Reddy has floated his own party, Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha, and is contesting the election from Gangavati in Koppal district.

G. Janardhana Reddy

Urban apathy

In the past five Karnataka Assembly elections, the three constituencies with the least voter turnout were from urban regions. The Election Commission (EC) says of the 30 crore voters who did not vote in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, a majority were youth and migrants from urban areas

Year	Rank	Seats	(%)
2018	1	Bommanahalli	48.3
	2	Dasarahalli	49.5
	3	C.V. Raman Nagar	50.7
2013	1	Gulbarga Uttar	50.2
	2	Sarvagnanagar	50.2
	3	Basavanagudi	52.2
2008	1	Sarvagnanagar	35.4
	2	C.V. Raman Nagar	40.7
	3	Chamrajpet	40.9

Year	Rank	Seats	(%)
2003	1	Shanthinagar	42.8
	2	Malleswaram	45.9
	3	Narasimharaja	46.9
1999	1	Uttarahalli	46.7
	2	Malleswaram	47.5
	3	Shanthinagar	48.4

The EC also points out the urban reluctance to vote, which reduced the overall vote share in the recently concluded Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat Assembly elections

Number of women MLAs abysmally low

Representation of women in the Karnataka Assembly is low, but the number of women voters has risen. This time, 17 constituencies have women outnumbering male voters. The outgoing Assembly of 224 members had only 10 elected women members, six from the Congress, three from the BJP and one from the JD(S).

B.L. Santosh has been in-charge of polls in T.N., Kerala and Bengal... I do not understand why the BJP trusts him so much

JAGADISH SHETTAR
Former BJP leader

In a first, Siddaramaiah arrives at his constituency with grandson

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, set to file his nomination for the Varuna seat on Wednesday, entered the constituency on Tuesday with his grandson Davan Rakesh Siddaramaiah, piquing curiosity.

For the first time, Mr. Siddaramaiah spoke about his 17-year-old grandson's interest in politics. Davan was seen socialising actively with Mr. Siddaramaiah's supporters on arriving here from Bengaluru by a special flight with his grandfather. He is the son of Rakesh Siddaramaiah, who died in 2016. Rakesh was seen as Mr. Siddaramaiah's political heir since he was nurturing his father's constituency. Mr. Davan is expected to join his grandfather when he submits his nomination papers for Varuna, which is now represented by Mr. Siddaramaiah's younger son Yathindra, who is a doctor.

"My grandson is still young and studying in pre-university. He wished to know how nomination papers are filed and how campaigning is done. So, he came with me. His father [Rakesh] was very interested in politics but died early," Mr. Siddaramaiah told presspersons.

It was for the first time that Mr. Davan was seen publicly with Mr. Siddaramaiah and Dr. Yathindra.

Correction

The report headlined "If defections, anti-incumbency trend do not throw a challenge at ruling BJP, history does" in these columns on April 17 was authored by B.S. Satish Kumar and not as printed.

Resurgent Congress looks strong, but the usual scrum for power could spoil its chances

The grand old party fancies its chance this time, especially with two senior leaders of the BJP crossing over to it, but it must first deal with the factionalism festering within and consolidate its support base in key areas to avoid a fractured verdict

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Renewed vigour: The Congress is aiming for a comeback with a full majority after a bitter experience of coalition governments twice with the JD(S) and is largely focusing on State-specific issues. GETTY IMAGES

Unlike in many other States, the Congress in Karnataka has a strong local leadership, wide social base and robust organisation for providing a stiff challenge to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Assembly election. However, too much of a good thing may also become an obstacle, with its leaders jostling for power in a game of one-upmanship.

Some leaders of the BJP – including a former Chief Minister and a former Deputy Chief Minister – who were denied ticket have now joined the Congress, adding a new vigour to the party. However, it remains to be seen how this will pan out as the election draws closer, and how long the newly forged ties will last.

Welfare narrative

The Congress is aiming for a comeback with a full majority after a bitter experience of coalition governments twice with the Janata Dal(S). It is largely focusing on State-specific issues, predominantly the corruption charges against the BJP government.

Party leader Rahul Gandhi, in his recent election rally in Kolar, said the BJP would try to use the "40% commission" money to destabilise the government unless the Congress gets a massive majority.

Building on its social welfare narrative, the Congress, in its election promises, has announced four major schemes for the welfare of the lower income categories.

It is also a battle of prestige for party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, who hails from Karnataka

The four "guarantees" are a monthly allowance of ₹2,000 to women under the Grih Lakshmi scheme, 200 units of electricity free under the Grih Jyoti scheme, 10 kg of rice free to families below the poverty line under the Anna Bhagya scheme, and a monthly cash incentive of ₹3,000 for every unemployed graduate and ₹1,500 for diploma holders under the Yuva Nidhi scheme. The party's campaign now has to deliver effectively the message about the benefits of these schemes to the intended beneficiaries.

The Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, with a vote share of nearly 17%, plays a significant role in Karnataka politics. The Congress is eyeing a chance to increase its mass base within the community, especially as the BJP had asked party veteran B.S. Yediyurappa from the community to step down as Chief Minister in July 2021. The two senior leaders of the BJP who have joined the Congress are also Lingayats. It will be interesting to see if the BJP government's decision to increase the reservation for Veerashaiva-Lingayats and other castes in the same Other Backward Class group from 5% to 7% would act as a counter-balance.

A challenge for the Congress will be to consolidate the minority vote – about 15% of the electorate – in its favour. The party has pledged that it will roll back the BJP government's decision to scrap the 4% reservation for Muslims under the backward quota. The JD(S) is seen as competing for the Muslim vote bank, with former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy stating that his party was open to appointing a Muslim leader as Chief Minister if it comes to power on its own. The community has dominance in close to 40 constituencies and is a significant factor in at least 60 others.

Seeking clear majority

Though the Congress did not get a majority in the 2018 Legislative Assembly election, its vote share rose to 38.14%, a gain from the 36.59% it garnered in the 2013 poll. The party, which won 80 seats in 2018, is now likely to face a straight contest against the ruling BJP in most of the State's 224 constituencies.

The JD(S) could pose a threat in some pockets of Kalyana Karnataka and the Kittur region.

In the old Mysore region, including Bengaluru, the electoral battle will be triangular, with the BJP trying to consolidate votes. The support base of the JD (S) has weakened in this region as a few leaders quit the party. The dominant Vokkaliga community has a strong base in the region and has an 11% vote share in the State.

The Congress has to weaken the JD(S) and stave off the BJP's efforts to gain a foothold in this belt, in order to avoid fractured verdicts. The party is banking on Congress State president D.K. Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga leader, to make gains here. However, the division of the community's votes can pose a risk for the party. The reservation for this community was also increased, from 4% to 6%.

The factionalism in the Congress remains the biggest challenge to the party. Fissures among different camps run deep. In a game of political one-upmanship, Mr. Shivakumar and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah seem to be silently working on a strategy to ensure the victory of the loyalist candidates, so that they can emerge as stronger contenders for the Chief Minister's post if the party is voted to power in the May 10 election. Both leaders have openly expressed their chief ministerial ambitions.

This is a battle of prestige for Congress president and Dalit leader Mallikarjun Kharge, who hails from Karnataka, and a chance to prove his leadership qualities. Votes from the Scheduled Castes (17%) and Scheduled Tribes (7%) are crucial for the party. This election will be crucial for Mr. Kharge to exercise his hold over the party in the days ahead on the national scene too.

Despite calamities, environment not a poll issue in State

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

A vehicle that was carried away in a landslip in Kodagu.

In 2018, Kodagu, the picturesque hilly district in Karnataka and one of the State's best-known tourist destinations, was buffeted by nature's fury along with parts of neighbouring Kerala. Heavy rain ravaged parts of the district, sending portions of hillocks rolling onto the ground, breaking roads into half, and reducing houses to a floating rubble.

The scenes were so potent that tourists stayed away much after the situation had returned to normal, even as experts warned of unscientific, unhindered development works wreaking havoc on the fragile ecosystem in the Western Ghats.

Cut to 2023, and the BJP's final Budget before the Assembly election had one major announcement for Kodagu: "A special package of ₹100 crore will be provided to Kodagu district for the development of major roads."

In Karnataka, where multiple calamities – whether man-made or natural – have caused large-scale devastation, environment and ecology are hardly a poll issue.

For instance, in the previous winter session, the Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly to simplify the conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purpose. The Environment and Health Foundation (India) later wrote to Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, pointing to the dangers of permitting commercial land conversion in the district, given the environmental sensitivity of the region.

In 2022, legislators from the State's Western Ghats area, irrespective of party affiliations, decided to take up a legal fight against the draft notification issued by the Centre on the Ecologically Sensitive Area in the Western Ghats region, which listed 20,668 sq.km in Karnataka as ESA.

Environmentalists say assurances and promises for ecologically sensitive regions such as the Western Ghats are primarily aimed at "infrastructure and development" with big funding.

Scientists point out that the high-intensity rainfall contributing to frequent flooding with landslips and mudslips affecting life and property, is a forewarning of the looming threat of climate change. Yet, this has not been an issue among decision-makers, evident from the little or no deliberations either in Parliament or any State Assembly.

"This is mainly due to the prevailing environmental illiteracy apart from lack of knowledge of recurring implications of poor environmental conditions," T.V. Ramachandra from the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, said.

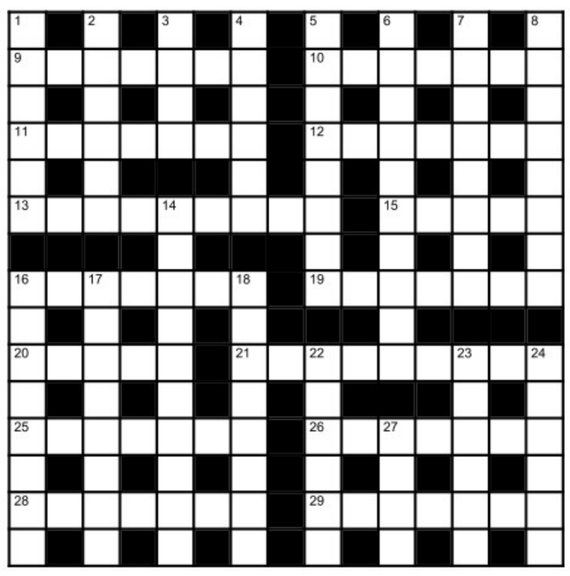
He attributed the missing climate discourse in India to the adoption of an inappropriate economic metric, the GDP, which leaves out degradation of ecosystems from national or federal accounting.

TH CROSSWORD + 13843

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Morning's with Jong, perhaps, in country (7)
10 Stars invite prince and earl for mimicries (7)
11 Coterie recouping somehow with exit of European Community (7)
12 Weapon on mountain top at eastern half of cape to discharge (7)
13 Without some elachi in demo, use oil to make sweet (9)
15 About Indian Railway visiting colleges and academy (5)
16 Wind destroyed Cisco routers, roughly 70% blown away (7)
19 Sports event in last Olympics, exciting to arrange (4,3)
20 Information on two leading individuals being demons (5)
21 Removals after six icons crookedly followed leading eugenist (9)
25 Withdraws pressure, giving way to victory displays (7)
26 Wound is small, right in collar (7)
28 Annoyed last son leaves, daughter in place compromised (7)
29 Bird's tail comes front with terrible rage in a state of minimum energy (3,4)

Down

1 A meal one has, to test the intestine (6)
2 An erstwhile province with cats, perhaps (6)
3 If three people switch places in the middle, one is a novice (4)
4 Pop has rewritten a Greek poet (6)
5 Supporter cheers on road, primarily silly dreamers (8)
6 Scandalmongers evacuated Dodge vehicles (10)
7 Female's annoyance with having gin in a dangerous building (8)
8 Idiot sat on worker. Rhyming? (8)
14 Due to absence of rule, duke at the helm can be easily cheated (10)
16 Doctor using rag for hair removal, say (8)
17 Price includes new oven? No refit (8)
18 Party ended earlier at ship's wing (8)
22 Keep actors lithe, ravenous (6)
23 Dismissed? Score at start? (6)
24 Discipline is special in this place (6)
27 Directions to install RO in the front leads to fights (4)

SUDOKU

		6					5	
		4	8		2			9
				1				7
3				2	1			4
		1				6		
4			6	7				2
1				5				
6			1		3	9		
	9					5		

No.SS5773 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

■	D	■	C	■	L	■	■	O	■	F	■	S
P	I	R	O	G	I	■	A	B	S	O	L	U	T	E
■	A	■	R	■	N	■	L	■	C	■	O	■	A	■
A	G	E	D	■	G	A	L	L	U	P	P	O	L	L
■	N	■	O	■	A	■	I	■	L	■	■	■	E	■
P	O	I	N	T	M	A	N	■	A	F	F	O	R	D
■	S	■	B	■	■	■	G	■	T	■	L	■	■	■
S	E	A	L	■	W	H	O	L	E	■	A	B	B	E
■	■	■	E	■	E	■	O	■	■	■	S	■	I	■
L	A	C	U	N	A	■	■	D	O	W	N	H	I	L	L
■	B	■	■	■	P	■	T	■	H	■	H	■	L	■
C	O	M	E	T	O	L	I	F	E	■	A	S	H	Y
■	U	■	N	■	N	■	M	■	L	■	R	■	O	■
U	N	I	V	E	R	S	E	■	P	A	R	S	O	N
■	D	■	Y	■	Y	■	■	S	■	Y	■	K	■	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	4	8	1	9	5	6	7	3
3	6	1	2	4	7	8	9	5
9	7	5	8	6	3	1	4	2
1	8	6	4	3	2	7	5	9
4	9	7	6	5	8	3	2	1
5	3	2	9	7	1	4	8	6
6	1	4	7	2	9	5	3	8
8	2	3	5	1	4	9	6	7
7	5	9	3	8	6	2	1	4

FAITH

Deeds of Rama

It is but natural for people to aspire to high positions in their life. But Rama was entirely happy when he was asked to leave for the forest instead of ruling the kingdom. The poet Kambar says that Rama was leaping with joy like an ox released from the tether of a laden cart's yoke. It is to be construed as giving up desires. The unfillable abyss in our life is lustful desires. If we overcome them, we can derive the blessings of God.

Lord Rama behaved with His conduct as the perfect human being. How could He have granted moksha to Jatayu, the eagle bird? If he had donned the role of God, should He have not known Sita's whereabouts? Why should He have been in search of her? The great acharya Sri Nampillai says 'Sathyena Lokan Jayathi' that Rama had conquered the universe with the virtuous quality of truthfulness and Srivaikunta was included in it. So Rama sent Jatayu to the place he had won, Akkarakani Srinidhi Swamy said in a discourse.

The chief of the monkey legions, Vaali, was slayed from behind a tree by Rama. Although Vaali had a boon that he could have half the power of the opponent standing before him, Rama doubted whether Vaali would have the stamina to share half of His valour had Rama been in front of him. Vaali and his wife Tara were convinced Rama's actions were justifiable after a series of arguments and counter arguments.

All the sages, unmindful of having many parts of their physical body chopped off by rakshasas, prayed Lord Rama would live long and shower His mercy upon them.

PESHAWAR

Pakistan court jails Chinese national charged with blasphemy

AP

A Pakistani court has ruled that a Chinese national arrested on blasphemy charges be held in jail for two weeks, pending trial, a police officer said Tuesday. Under Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws, anyone convicted of blasphemy can be sentenced to death. AP

ROME

Italy Minister sparks outrage with comment on 'ethnic replacement'

REUTERS

Italian Minister Francesco Lollobrigida, a close ally of PM Giorgia Meloni', sparked outrage with his remark on "ethnic replacement" of Italians by migrants. "We cannot resign ourselves to the idea of ethnic replacement: Italians have fewer children, so let's substitute them with someone else. That's not the road to go down." AFP

MOSCOW

Russia's Parliament increases penalty for treason, terrorism

AFP

The lower house of Russia's Parliament on Tuesday approved legislation increasing the punishment for treason to life imprisonment and boosting the penalty for terrorism. The legislation, which advances to the Parliament's upper house, represents an escalation of the Kremlin's domestic crackdown. AP

DAMASCUS

Saudi Minister meets Assad in first visit to Syria since start of civil war

REUTERS

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad met with Saudi Arabia's top diplomat in Damascus, ending more than a decade of diplomatic deep-freeze between the two countries. The Saudi prince arrived in Damascus on Tuesday afternoon on the first visit to Syria's capital by a Saudi official since the start of the country's civil war in 2011.

Russian court confirms U.S. reporter's detention

Reuters
MOSCOW

A Moscow court on Tuesday rejected an appeal from U.S. journalist Evan Gershkovich to be freed from pre-trial detention, meaning he will stay in a former KGB prison until at least May 29 while a spying case against him is investigated.

Mr. Gershkovich, a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*, denies the espionage charges. He looked calm and smiled as he stood in a glass cage before the appeal ruling.

His legal team suggested he be freed on bail of 50 million roubles ($614,000) or placed under house arrest, Tatiana Nozhkina, his lawyer said. She said the court rejected both suggestions.

Anger in Kyiv as Putin visits Ukraine frontline regions

Ukraine terms it a tour of the scenes of Russian 'crimes'; Russian President's visit comes as China's Defence Minister is in Moscow to demonstrate Beijing's 'determination' to stronger Russia ties

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

The Kremlin said on Tuesday that President Vladimir Putin had visited two frontline regions in Ukraine, prompting Kyiv to brand it a tour of the scenes of Russian "crimes".

Moscow portrayed the trip as a marker of its control in occupied Ukraine, but Russia does not fully hold those areas despite claiming them after a widely-condemned annexation.

Mr. Putin's visit to Kherson and Lugansk, which was only made public a day after it happened, came as China's Defence Minister Li Shangfu was in Moscow to demonstrate what he called Beijing's "determination" to stronger Russia ties. Moscow has been seeking allies to confront the West as its war in Ukraine causes immense destruction and suffering but has not neared Mr. Putin's goal of capturing control of the country.

Field visit: Vladimir Putin visiting the headquarters of the group of troops "Dnepr" in Kherson on Tuesday. AP

"The President is now visiting the new regions more and more often," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, adding it is "absolutely important" that Mr. Putin as supreme commander-in-chief of Russia's armed forces "gets information on the spot".

Mykhailo Podolyak, an advisor to President Volodymyr Zelensky, called Mr. Putin's trip "a 'special tour' of the mass murders' author", adding he went to Ukraine's occupied territories "to enjoy the crimes of his minions for the last time."

'Seeing eye to eye'

In Moscow, Mr. Li told Mr. Shoigu his trip was aimed at demonstrating Beijing's "determination" to strengthen strategic ties with Russia.

Mr. Shoigu said it was "important that our countries see eye to eye on the issue of the ongoing transformation of the global geopolitical landscape".

Sudan's capital hit by blasts as conflict enters fourth day

Agence France-Presse
KHARTOUM

Explosions rocked the Sudanese capital Khartoum on Tuesday as fighting that has claimed nearly 200 lives entered a fourth day, despite growing international calls for an end to hostilities.

A weeks-long power struggle erupted into deadly violence on Saturday between the forces of two generals who seized power in a 2021 coup: Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Battles have taken place throughout the vast east African country and there are fears of regional spillover of the conflict that has seen air strikes, artillery and heavy gunfire.

In a statement, G-7 Foreign Ministers meeting in Japan called for the warring parties to "end hostilities immediately", as loud explosions were heard on Tuesday morning in Khartoum, where militiamen in turbans and fatigues roamed the streets.

Simmering tension: Smoke rises from burning aircraft inside Khartoum Airport during clashes in Sudan on Monday. REUTERS

The current toll stands at over 185 people killed and 1,800 injured, according to the UN. The number of casualties is thought to be far higher, with many wounded unable to reach hospitals, themselves under shelling.

Rumour of ceasefire

Gen. Daglo said on Twitter after his call with Mr. Blinken that the RSF "reaffirms its approval" of a 24-hour "armistice to ensure the safe passage of civilians and the evacuation of the wounded". The Army bluntly dismissed his statement, however.

Israeli forces shoot seven people in West Bank raid

Agence France-Presse
NABLUS

Israeli forces shot and wounded seven people in a raid Tuesday in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said as the Israeli Army confirmed an operation was underway.

The Ministry reported "six minor injuries from live fire" reached Jenin governmental hospital, while another person shot had been admitted to a nearby hospital.

Meanwhile, China's foreign minister told his Israeli and Palestinian counterparts that his country is ready to help facilitate peace talks.

Indian climbers rescued from Mt. Annapurna

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Two Indians, prominent woman climber Baljeet Kaur and the youngest Indian to climb Mt. Everest in 2010, Arjun Vajpai, were rescued from Mt. Annapurna in Nepal on Tuesday, officials from the expedition organisers said.

Ms. Kaur, 27, who scaled the world's 10th highest peak without using supplemental oxygen, went missing near Camp IV while descending from the summit point on Monday. She was rescued from 7,363m above Camp IV.

Indian climber Arjun Vajpai was also rescued from 6,800 metres.

Caught between big powers, Nepal struggles to strike a balance in policy

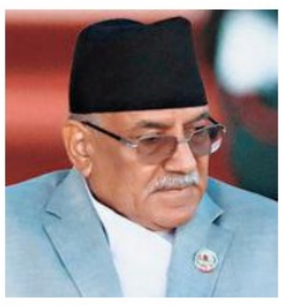
Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' appointed Narayan Prakash Saud, a Nepali Congress leader, as Foreign Minister on Sunday, after holding the portfolio for seven weeks himself. Domestic politics is so fractured that he was struggling to keep a stable Cabinet – Sunday's was the eighth expansion since his appointment as the Prime Minister on December 25.

Nepali politics continues to be in a constant flux. While Prachanda's struggles at home turf are immense, he is faced with myriad challenges when it comes to foreign policy.

Three-way challenges

Prachanda has taken the helm at a time when there have been overt bids by Beijing to expand its sphere of influence in Nepal, where New Delhi traditionally enjoyed its clout, just as the Americans appear to have renewed their interest. Particularly after the passage of the Millennium Challenge Corporation-Nepal Compact (MCC), there has been a flurry of visits by U.S. officials to Kathmandu. Under MCC, the U.S. will provide $500 million in grants to build electricity transmission lines and improve roads in the Himalayan country.



Pushpa Kamal Dahal

As Nepali politicians and intelligentsia debated the MCC last year, Beijing minced no words to warn Washington not to impose anything against Nepal's will. Meanwhile, ties with India are not in their best days.

"The biggest bane of Prachanda is that he is leading one of the weakest governments ever in terms of legitimacy," said K.C. Khadga, a professor of international relations and diplomacy at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. "And there is a lack of trust from... say, neighboring countries and the U.S., given his track record, his own worldview and his party's ideological and philosophical perspectives."

A tightrope walk

As the U.S. and China jostle for influence, Prachanda faces a tightrope walk with India. He is avidly awaiting an invitation from New Delhi, with reports suggesting that an April-end or May date is being considered.

That Nepal can serve as a bridge between two big economies–India and China– for its own economic development has been a common refrain for long, but it has failed to materialise due largely to unstable Nepali politics.

The Chinese are keen to pour money into Nepal under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), to which Nepal signed up in 2017, while New Delhi clearly appears reluctant to be engaged with any project that is part of the BRI.

Observers say Prachanda will do well if he can bring domestic actors together for a consistent and coherent foreign policy while employing his government to negotiate projects under the BRI, maximise the benefits for Nepal by implementing the MCC and strengthening cooperation with India in the areas of energy, trade and transit.

"But given the fluid political landscape, for Prachanda, bringing all the parties to consensus on foreign policy is not easy," said Chandra Dev Bhatta, a political scientist who writes on geopolitical matters.

"For years, Nepali politicians have failed to prioritise foreign policy in national interest, and Prachanda is no exception. Since his appointment as the Prime Minister, he has been using all his might to save his government, just as foreign policy remains completely ignored."

Sanjeev Satgainya is a journalist based in Kathmandu.

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INBRIEF

Volkswagen India introduces new variants of Taigun, Virtus

Volkswagen India has announced the introduction of three new variants of its existing models to woo buyers. Market introductions of these new variants will commence June 2023 onwards. Ashish Gupta, brand director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, said, "We have introduced three new variants – Virtus GT Plus manual, Taigun GT Plus manual and Taigun GT DSG – giving our customers a host of variants to choose from."

Motilal Oswal Financial hires 270 freshers in Mumbai

Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. hired 270 people through a recruitment drive in which about 2,500 freshers from 109 colleges in and around Mumbai took part recently. As many as 610 candidates were shortlisted, of which 270 were given spot placements. The remaining would be considered for future positions the company said. Niren Srivastava, Group CHRO said, "Fresh graduates [are] getting an opportunity... in a booming financial industry."

Sugar mill output dips to 311 lakh tonnes this season: ISMA

Mills have produced 311 lakh tonnes of sugar (after diversion for ethanol) between October 1, 2022 and April 15, 2023 during the current sugar season, as against 328.7 lakh tonnes in the same period of the last sugar season. The Indian Sugar Mills' Association said in an update that in the current season, which began on October 1 last year, 532 sugar mills started production and 132 of them continued to operate. In the last season, 305 mills were operating as of April 15, 2022.

India, China snap up Russian oil in April above 'price cap'

India has accounted for more than 70% of seaborne supplies of Urals grade so far this month, China for about 20%; average discounts were at $13 per barrel to dated Brent in Indian ports

Reuters
MOSCOW

India and China have snapped up the vast majority of Russian oil so far in April at prices above the Western price cap of $60 per barrel, according to traders and Reuters calculations.

That means the Kremlin is enjoying stronger revenues despite the West's attempts to curb funds for Russia's military operations in Ukraine. India accounts for more than 70% of seaborne supplies of the Urals grade so far this month and China for about 20%, Reuters calculations show. Lower freight rates and smaller discounts for Urals against global benchmarks nudged the daily price of the grade back above the cap earlier in April from a period of trading below. India and China have not agreed to the price cap, but the West had hoped the threat of sanctions might deter purchases above the cap. Average discounts for Urals were at $13 per barrel to dated Brent on a DES (delivered ex-ship) basis in Indian ports, according to traders.

The Urals price on a free-on-board basis in Baltic ports, allowing about $2 per barrel of transport costs, has been slightly above $60 per barrel so far in April, Reuters calculations show.

In full flow

The West fears that Kremlin is enjoying stronger revenues despite attempts to curb funds for Russia's military operations in Ukraine

- India and China have not agreed to abide by the G7's price cap
- West had hoped threat of sanctions might deter oil purchases
- Lower freight rates, smaller discounts for Urals against global benchmarks nudged the daily price of the grade back above the cap earlier in April

India plans to appeal against WTO ruling on IT tariffs

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India is planning to appeal against a ruling by a panel at the World Trade Organization (WTO) that it violated global trading rules by imposing tariffs on some IT products, a government source said.

On Monday, the WTO panel gave its ruling related to a 2019 dispute with the European Union, Japan and Taiwan over import duties on IT products.

"Yes, India will go in to appeal," a trade ministry source, briefed on the government position, told Reuters.

Tim Cook opens Apple's first India store in Mumbai

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Apple Inc., which has been operating for more than 25 years in India, on Tuesday opened Apple BKC, its first retail store in the country at Jio Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai in a move to solidify its base in this part of the world.

Apple CEO Tim Cook opened the gate of the store and personally received customers and was even seen posing for selfies. A large number of customers had lined up in a queue since early morning to visit and buy Apple products from the store which opened at 11 am.

"Apple BKC will serve as a dynamic space where customers can learn how to get more out of their devices," the company said in a statement.

The store features more than 100 team members who collectively speak over 20 languages and can cater to customers from around the world, helping them learn about Apple products, the company added. The second store, Apple Saket in Delhi, will open on April 20.

Apple loyalist stuns Cook

Blast from the past: Apple CEO Tim Cook reacts after seeing an old Macintosh Classic machine brought by a visitor during the opening of the first Apple Inc. flagship store in India at the Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai. Mr. Cook opened the doors to the store and personally received customers. EMMANUEL YOGINI

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,727	-0.31
US Dollar	82.04	-0.03
Gold	60,300	-0.59
Brent oil	85.19	0.49

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1850.95	-27.80
Adani Ports	658.55	-6.15
Apollo Hosp	4338.65	-48.05
Asian Paints	2854.60	11.50
Axis Bank	863.35	-1.20
Bajaj Auto	4209.25	-45.10
Bajaj Finserv	1335.20	-5.95
Bajaj Finance	5915.65	-45.80
Bharti Airtel	759.75	0.10
BPCL	334.80	-0.90
Britannia Ind	4301.85	-36.75
Cipla	924.25	17.80
Coal India	232.20	2.60
Divis Lab	3270.60	107.95
Dr Reddys Lab	4912.40	60.10
Eicher Motors	3263.55	34.55
Grasim Ind	1704.95	-18.70
HCL Tech	1063.85	21.65
HDFC	2723.70	-18.35
HDFC Bank	1659.60	-7.05
HDFC Life	532.30	-1.10
Hero MotoCorp	2439.70	-26.25
Hindalco	431.55	2.85
Hind Unilever	2541.05	-10.80
ICICI Bank	896.85	-4.45
IndusInd Bank	1146.90	22.55
Infosys	1259.35	1.05
ITC	398.50	-1.65
JSW Steel	719.35	-1.85
Kotak Bank	1888.30	-6.85
L&T	2216.60	2.60
M&M	1204.70	-8.25
Maruti Suzuki	8732.65	58.00
NestleIndia	20661.25	416.85
NTPC	170.10	0.50
ONGC	160.10	-0.05
PowerGrid Corp	230.30	-6.35
Reliance Ind	2340.35	-27.10
SBI Life	1145.55	0.20
State Bank	545.85	1.85
Sun Pharma	1004.80	6.10
TataConsumerProduct	707.05	-6.15
Tata Motors	473.00	0.85
Tata Steel	107.60	0.45
TCS	3130.75	-8.75
Tech Mahindra	1025.20	-4.75
Titan	2577.70	-27.90
UltraTech Cement	7595.30	-147.15
UPL	738.65	1.50
Wipro	367.90	6.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.84	82.16
Euro	89.83	90.18
British Pound	101.75	102.16
Japanese Yen (100)	61.06	61.30
Chinese Yuan	11.90	11.95
Swiss Franc	91.26	91.67
Singapore Dollar	61.44	61.69
Canadian Dollar	61.22	61.47
Malaysian Ringitt	18.45	18.54
Australian Dollar	55.16	55.37

Source:Indian Bank

India must not open floodgates to foreign air carriers: Air India's Wilson

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson came out all guns blazing against demands from Gulf carriers such as Emirates to allow them more flights into the country, adding that India must not "open the floodgates" as it was in the "national interest" for his firm to develop non-stop routes and for Indian travellers to enjoy direct flights to destinations in the U.S. and Europe.

"Air India has not been able to cater to the need of Indian travellers whether it is because of lack of aircraft or lack of investment," Mr. Wilson told *The Hindu* in an exclusive interview. "In the void left by erstwhile Air India, a lot of other airlines filled the gap and so they take a lot of people from India to the U.S. or to Europe. As Air India invests and gets more fleet and seeks to serve these markets non-stop, I think it is in the national interest for Air India to be given the opportunity to develop those markets," he said.

"If we throw open the floodgates and don't let that time for the airline to grow, we perpetuate the situation where Indian travellers to and from India don't have the long-haul, non-stop opportunity. We have invested $70 billion in trying to realise that opportunity," he added emphatically. The airline recently placed an order of 470 aircraft, including 70 widebodies.

Ever since the airline was privatised in January last year, it has focused on expanding its network and adding flights to Europe and the U.S. To achieve this, it has also leased 11 Boeing 777 aircraft and carried out maintenance work on 13 of its widebody planes to make them airworthy. It has enhanced weekly flights to the U.S. from 34 to 47 and now offers 14 weekly flights to Canada and 73 to Europe.

Campbell Wilson

UAE's request

The comments come at a time Dubai has requested India that the bilateral air service agreements – that caps the number of seats that carriers can fly between the two at 66,000 seats – be raised by another 50,000 seats.

Dubai's Emirates and FlyDubai have reached the upper limit and Indian carriers are also nearly there.

Some Indian carriers such as the brand new Akasa, which plans to commence international flights later this year, as well as IndiGo have also demanded an increase in seats. Turkish Airlines has also requested that it be allowed to raise the 14 weekly flights it is permitted, to 28.

Last month, Emirates President Tim Clarke said that by restricting capacity, India was constraining its growth. He cautioned that if India didn't "expand the capacity, the losers will be the people who want to go there (destinations such as Dubai)".

Willie Walsh, Director General, Indian Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents over 300 airlines globally, told *The Hindu* earlier this month that if India restricted access to its markets, "other countries will restrict capacity as well."

But the Air India CEO said carriers from West Asia were exceeding the norms afforded by bilateral rights and flying passengers beyond their hubs.

"Perhaps it would be appropriate that they don't sell so much beyond their hub and they focus their traffic on carrying people to their hub. More than half of their traffic is not travelling to their hub. They are travelling to other hubs to which Air India can operate a non-stop service if given the opportunity," he emphasised.

Air service agreements between two countries offer airlines the right to fly passengers only between them. But Indian carriers have long expressed concerns that some foreign airlines violate these norms.

'Can't build overnight'

On criticism levelled by Emirates CEO that Air India's order of 470 aircraft only comprised 70 widebodies indicating the airline was focused on domestic routes, Mr. Wilson said to expect Air India to build its fleet overnight was "disingenuous".

"We are tripling the fleet. We are taking 70 widebodies on top of the 20 we are restoring [to service] and on top of that we are leasing in 11. This clearly won't be the last order aside from the options."

Tea mosquito bug affecting production, says UPASI

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The tea mosquito bug is affecting tea production in both low and high elevation plantations, the United Planters Association of Southern India said.

UPASI president Jeffry Rebello said the bug had spread to plantations in high elevation areas in the north and southern States.

Several pesticides were removed from the approved list of Plant Protection Code of the Tea Board to make Indian teas free from harmful pesticides.

With limited choice of pesticides, tea growers are unable to achieve effective control of the bug, he said.

Baskin Robbins to have 1,000 parlours

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Baskin Robbins, an ice cream brand operating in the ₹1,500-crore premium space, plans to have more than 1,000 parlours in India by financial year 2025 and is aiming for double-digit growth, said Mohit Khattar, CEO, Graviss Foods Pvt. Ltd.

"Right now, we have presence in 239 cities with over 850 parlours. We are planning to add 100 more parlours every year for the next two-three years," he said during an interaction.

Graviss Foods is the Indian franchise partner of Baskin Robbins.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C),
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Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-2213/01/2023/ 11523 , dated : 17.04.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Construction of SFRC/RCC Pre-Cast Compound Wall around the land allotted by IDCO to DAV Organization at Angul District.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.43.69 Lakh (Approx.)
3. Period of Completion : 02 (Two) Calendar Months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID/Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-07/2023-24	24.04.2023 at 17.00 Hrs.	10.05.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-201 OIPR-14003/11/0012/2324

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Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-2197/04/2023/ 11588 , dated : 17/04/2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Comprehensive Development of Choudwar and Indranipatna Industrial Estates, Cuttack, Odisha under SIDBI Cluster Development Fund.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.5104.14 Lakh
3. Period of Completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID/Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-09/2022-23	26.04.2023 at 17.00 Hrs.	17.05.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-206 OIPR-14003/11/0014/2324

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C),
IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022

Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-2145/01/2023/ 11584 , dated : 17/04/2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Cement Concrete Road of 9.0 mtr & 12.0 mtr RoW at IDCO I/E, Phulbani, Kandhamala.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.97.60 Lakh (Approx).
3. Period of Completion : 02 (Two) Calendar Months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID/Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-08/2023-24	25.04.2023 at 17.00 Hrs.	11.05.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-207 OIPR-14003/11/0015/2324

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that my client **Shree G.Manjunath Prabhu** has lost the original sale deed dated 28-01-1993 numbered 3175, in Book No 1, Volume No.1804 ,Pages113-122,registered at Sub Registrar Office, Basavanagudi Bangalore pertaining to the property / apartment bearing PID number No.50-31-61/14 Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi -560004 and a police complaint is filed in Basavanagudi Police Station.

If the said documents are found/traced by any member of the public, the same may please be delivered to the following address.

Sateesh S. Advocate
No.624, 2nd Floor, 15th Main, 24th Cross, BSK II Stage, Bengaluru - 560070

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that the original document viz Sale deed dated 15.12.1995 registered on 25.05.2000 registered as document No 337/2000-01 , Volume 2286 in Book 1 at pages 161-169 registered in the office of sub registrar , Hoskote relating to the schedule property belonging to **M.N.PAVANI W/o. Mr M.Srinivasa Rao** residing at No A-1201, Vaishnavi Terrace, Dollars Layout , Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560078 is lost at No 81, 36th Cross, 6th Main, Jayanagar 5th Block, Bangalore-560 041, hence a Police Complaint is lodged with Karnataka State Police, Bengaluru City Police unit Vide E- Complaint dated 30.03.2023 regarding lost of said document. Public are hereby notified that whoever finds the said document are required to inform or handover the said document to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property Undeveloped converted land bearing **Sy No 208/3 [Old Sy NO 208/1, Earlier No 208]** of **Jadigenahalli Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk , Bangalore Rural District,** vide D.C. Conversion order as No LAND10008845 dated 13.03.2019 totally measuring **1 Acre 20 Guntas** and bounded on the :

East by : Property belongs to Sy.No.208/1
West by : Property belongs to Sy. No.16
North by : Property belongs to Sy. No.207
South by : Property belongs to Sy. No.16

SUDHAMANI & ASSOCIATES
Advocates & Legal consultants
ROLL No. KAR/787/1989
No. 1/A, 5th 'A' Cross, 24th Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, BANGALORE-78.
Ph. No. : 08026491048 / M-9845235255.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE IV TH ADDL. PRL. JUDGE, FAMILY COURT AT BENGALURU
M.C. No. 3185/2022

BETWEEN:
Sri. Santhosh Kumar. P ...Petitioner
And:
Smt. Mayamma @ Lavanya ...Respondent

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To: Smt. K. Mayamma @ Lavanya
W/o Santhosh Kumar. P, Aged about 26 years, Presently R/at No. 1894, 12th Cross, Mangalavara Pete, Channapatna Town, Channapatna-562160.

Whereas the petitioner in the above petition has filed the above petition for Divorce filed U/S. 13(1) (i-a) of H.M. Act.

You are hereby summoned to appear in person before this Hon'ble IVth Addl. Principal Family Judge at Bengaluru.

Take Notice that in default of your appearance on the day of **23.06.2023** the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court on 6th day of April 2023.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- **Senior Sheristedar**
Family Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for the Petitioner:
Sri. Sandeep Hegde, Advocate
Office at No. 71/11, 2nd Floor, 18th Cross, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010.
Mob: 89717 84550

BUCK UP

It shouldn't go to a stage where Dhoni gets banned: Sehwag

Virender Sehwag feels CSK bowlers are repeatedly letting M.S. Dhoni down and has urged them to "buck up" to avoid the risk of getting him "banned". "Dhoni wants the bowlers to reduce the no balls and wides," Sehwag said. "It shouldn't go to a stage where Dhoni gets banned and CSK has to take the field without him."

TAKING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Final stamp on the IPL came when we went to South Africa: Shastri

The IPL always had quality, but what took it to another level was the successful hosting of the league in South Africa in 2009, and the interest it generated, feels Ravi Shastri. "The final stamp came when we went to South Africa. To go there and see that South Africa saw the IPL with the same interest as India, that shocked the world."

MOST WATCHED

RCB-CSK match breaks live streaming viewership record

The online live streaming viewership during the Chennai Super Kings-Royal Challengers Bangalore match on Jio-Cinema crossed 24 million, the highest-ever. Earlier on April 12, the number of viewers had reached 22 million. In the last over of the second innings, the number of viewers on Jio Cinema reached 24 million.

COVETED RECOGNITION

Wisden honour for Suryakumar and Harmanpreet

Suryakumar Yadav has been named *Wisden's* Leading T20 Cricketer of the Year while Harmanpreet Kaur has become the first Indian woman to win a *Wisden* Cricketer of the Year. England's Ben Stokes and Australia's Beth Mooney claimed the coveted men's and women's Leading Cricketers in the World honours respectively.

Green and bowlers fashion Mumbai Indians' win

The Australian scores a brilliant half-century while Kishan and Tilak come up with vital contributions; none of the Sunrisers Hyderabad batters, except for Mayank and Klaasen, get going

Going berserk: Green shrugged off the early blues and made amends at the right time. NAGARA GOPAL

IPL-16

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Cameron Green's brilliance with the bat and a disciplined bowling effort fashioned Mumbai Indians' 14-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Tuesday.

Chasing 193, Sunrisers hopes were dented early on when the dangerous Harry Brook mistimed a pull off pacer Jason Behrendoff in the second over and soon Rahul Tripathi, too, fell cheaply in the fourth over to the same bowler.

Captain Aiden Markram showed intent but failed to last long.

Heinrich Klaasen raised hopes of a probable victory with an assault on leggie Piyush Chawla – the scoring pattern being 4, 6, 6, 4 in the 14th over – before holing out to the fielder in the deep in the same over.

Even as wickets fell at regular intervals, Mayank Agarwal regained his form but his effort was not good enough for the team's cause.

Rohit applauds Arjun Tendulkar, right, for his maiden IPL wicket. NAGARA GOPAL

With 20 needed off the last over and impact player Abdul Samad (for T. Natarajan) on strike, left-arm pacer Arjun Tendulkar was equal to the task, denying the batters the freedom to play the big shots.

Off to a flier

Earlier, Mumbai Indians, asked to bat, was off to a flier thanks to captain Rohit Sharma's flamboyance, which included three fours off Washington Sundar's first over and the third of the innings. With southpaw Ishan Kishan too playing a breezy knock, Mumbai Indians made the most of the PowerPlay. However, Rohit was sent back by left-arm pacer Natarajan in the fifth over, when his attempted flick ended up in a simple catch to mid-off from a leading edge.

Kishan continued his good form and came up with some lusty blows before left-arm pacer Marco Jansen had him caught in the deep brilliantly by captain Aiden Markram in the 12th over. In the same over, Jansen saw Markaram pull off another stunning catch to send back Suryakumar Yadav.

But it was Cameron Green who nullified that double blow, shrugging off the early blues to make amends at the right time in the company of a brilliant Tilak Varma, who helped Mumbai Indians post its highest score at this venue, erasing the previous best of 178 for nine against Deccan Chargers in 2008. Tilak's extravagant pull over the fence off left-arm pacer Marco Jansen was the pick of the shots.

The Sunrisers bowlers struggled in the slog overs – 62 runs were scored in the last five with two wickets falling.

Strangely, the fiery Umran Malik was not in the playing eleven.

Next assignment

SRH: April 21 vs. **CSK** Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

MI: April 22 vs. **PBKS** Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS
Rohit Sharma c Markram b Natarajan 28 *(18b, 6x4)*, Ishan Kishan c Markram b Marco Jansen 38 *(31b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Cameron Green (not out) 64 *(40b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Markram b Marco Jansen 7 *(3b, 1x6)*, Tilak Varma c Mayank b Bhuvneshwar 37 *(17b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Tim David run out 16 *(11b, 2x4)*; Extras (w-2): 2; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 192.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-41 (Rohit, 4.4 overs), 2-87 (Kishan, 11.1), 3-95 (Suryakumar, 11.5), 4-151 (Tilak, 16.3), 5-192 (David, 19.6).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 4-0-31-1, Marco Jansen 4-0-43-2, Washington 4-0-33-0, Natarajan 4-0-50-1, Markande 4-0-35-0.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Harry Brook c Suryakumar b Behrendorff 9 *(7b, 2x4)*, Mayank Agarwal c David b Meredith 48 *(41b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Rahul Tripathi c Kishan b Behrendorff 7 *(5b, 1x4)*, Aiden Markram c Shokeen b Green 22 *(17b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Abhishek Sharma c David b Chawla 1 *(2b)*, Heinrich Klaasen c David b Chawla 36 *(16b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Abdul Samad **(Impact Player in place of Natarajan)** run out 9 *(12b, 1x4)*, Marco Jansen c David b Meredith 13 *(6b, 3x4)*, Washington Sundar run out 10 *(6b, 2x4)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar c Rohit b Tendulkar 2 *(5b)*, Mayank Markande (not out) 2 *(2b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-5, w-13): 19; Total (in 19.5 overs): 178.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-11 (Brook, 1.4), 2-25 (Tripathi, 3.4), 3-71 (Markram, 8.4), 4-72 (Abhishek, 9.1), 5-127 (Klaasen, 13.6), 6-132 (Mayank, 14.5), 7-149 (Jansen, 16.4), 8-165 (Washington, 17.5), 9-174 (Samad, 19.2).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Arjun Tendulkar 2.5-0-18-1, Behrendorff 4-0-37-2, Meredith **(Impact Player in place of Tilak)** 4-0-33-2, Shokeen 1-0-12-0, Chawla 4-0-43-2, Green 4-0-29-1.

Toss: SRH; **PoM:** Green.
Mumbai Indians won by 14 runs.

Royals return to their fortress to face Giants

Roster change: Super Giants could opt for the experienced de Kock for Mayers, whose form seems to have tapered off. SPORTZPICS/IPL

Pranay Rajiv
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Royals returns to Jaipur in the IPL after nearly four years as it looks to tighten its grip at the top of the table with a win over second-placed Lucknow Super Giants on Wednesday. Royals march back into their fortress – the men in pink have a win percentage of 68 here, the second best for a side at a home venue in IPL - after conquering defending champion Gujarat Titans in their last game.

The Sanju Samson-led side would take great pride in that victory, having been 4/2 in three overs, in its chase of Titans' 177, before the skipper and Shimron Hetmyer scored sparkling fifties to register a statement win.

LSG though come into the game on the back of a close defeat at the hands of Punjab Kings. K.L. Rahul's side fought admirably trying to defend a par score but fell short thanks to Shahrukh Khan's late flourish. The away side might contemplate bringing in the experienced Quinton de Kock for Kyle Mayers.

On Wednesday, LSG will have to deal with an in-form Royals bowling unit led by Purple Cap-holder Yuzvendra Chahal, with Trent Boult and Ravichandran Ashwin in support.

On the other hand, LSG's bowling has been inconsistent

TODAY'S MATCH

RAJASTHAN ROYALS vs. LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **2**
RR **2** | LSG **0**

PREVIOUS MEETING
RR won by 24 runs, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Technology can't get too involved with the game: Conway

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The spidercam came into focus when Royal Challengers Bangalore's Glenn Maxwell's skied a shot in the IPL outing against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) here on Monday.

The ball nearly touched the spidercam, which no doubt distracted wicket-keeper M.S. Dhoni as he settled to take the catch.

Dhoni expressed his concerns to the umpire after completing the catch. CSK opener Devon Conway stated that the spidercam must not interfere with the game.

"It has happened a couple of times where the ball has got very close to the spidercam and wires.

"That can put a fielder off. Faf (du Plessis) stepped away a couple of times because the shadow of the spidercam was in his way. It is testing for guys. It's nice to have the technology to show different angles, but there comes a point where it can't get too involved and interfere with the game. MS (Dhoni) was trying to speak to the umpires to say 'don't let it get too close to the action'," Conway said.

Conway, who scored a 45-ball 83 in his team's victory, praised Dhoni for taking two crucial catches to dismiss Maxwell and du Plessis. "Those were very tough catches. It is not easy to catch balls which go straight up into the dark night. We are very lucky to have MS (Dhoni) with the gloves. The catches broke the momentum and ultimately helped us win the game," Conway said in the post-match press conference here.

The RCB chase fell apart after Maxwell and du Plessis were dismissed, giving credence to concerns that the unit is over-reliant on the top-order.

Maxwell, however, did not agree with this view.

"Shahbaz (Ahmed) and DK (Dinesh Kartik) batted really well. We were in the game right till the end. I thought (CSK fast bowler) Matheesha Pathirana executed brilliantly.

"He came on and bowled a couple of crucial overs in the back end. He nailed the yorkers under pressure," Maxwell said.

Needless distraction: Dhoni was not happy with the spidercam getting too close to the action. K. MURALI KUMAR

Points Table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	5	4	1	8	1.354
Lucknow Super Giants	5	3	2	6	0.761
Chennai Super Kings	5	3	2	6	0.265
Gujarat Titans	5	3	2	6	0.192
Punjab Kings	5	3	2	6	-0.109
Mumbai Indians	5	3	2	6	-0.164
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	2	3	4	0.320
Royal Challengers Bangalore	5	2	3	4	-0.318
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	4	-0.798
Delhi Capitals	5	0	5	0	-1.488

After the SRH-MI match on April 18

Neesham. AP

New Zealand survives Iftikhar scare to stay alive

Agence France-Presse
LAHORE

James Neesham held his nerve in the final over to give New Zealand a dramatic four-run win over Pakistan in the third T20I here on Monday despite Iftikhar Ahmed's brilliant innings. New Zealand trails 1-2 in the five-match series.

Iftikhar brought Pakistan back into the contest from 88 for seven with a whirlwind 24-ball 60 as it attempted to chase down New Zealand's 163 for five.

Needing 15 to win from Neesham's final over, he hit a six and a four to reduce the target to five off the last three balls. But Neesham had Ahmed caught at long-on by Daryl Mitchell and then dismissed last man Haris Rauf.

The scores: New Zealand 163/5 in 20 overs (Latham 64) bt Pakistan 159 in 20 overs (Iftikhar 60, Neesham 3/38). *Pakistan leads five-match series 2-1.*

Jamshedpur gets one more than Gokulam in five-goal affair

In fine form: Sawyer, left, scored his third goal in as many matches for Jamshedpur FC on Tuesday. K. RAGESH

SUPER CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

It may have been an inconsequential match, but Jamshedpur FC and Gokulam Kerala produced five goals and some exciting football in the Super Cup on Tuesday. Jamshedpur, which had already qualified for the semifinals by topping Group C with a game in hand, won 3-2.

Jamshedpur coach Aidy Boothroyd made so many changes to his eleven that it looked almost irrecognisable from the one that defeated ATK Mohun Bagan 3-0 in the last match.

It was Gokulam that scored first. Samuel Konney netted the first of his two goals in the 33rd minute, off a pass into the box from the impressive K. Sourav. But seven minutes later, Harry Sawyer equalised with his third goal in as many games.

In the second half, Farrukh Choudhary put Jamshedpur ahead, off a long cross from Sawyer, but the home side drew level, as Konney scored off a deflection after a fine 1-2 between V.S. Sreekuttan and Vikas Saini. Ishan Pandita struck decisively for Jamshedpur.

The result:
JFC 3 (Harry Sawyer 40, Farrukh Choudhary 59, Ishan Pandita 69) bt Gokulam Kerala 2 (Samuel Konney 33 & 62); FC Goa 1 (Fares Arnaout 89) bt ATKMB 0.

INBRIEF

Taylor backs Warner to play WTC final and the Ashes

Former Australia captain Mark Taylor has backed David Warner to play in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final against India at The Oval in June and to also feature in the initial stage of the Ashes 2023 in England. Taylor told *AAP* on Tuesday, "If I am reading the tea leaves right, it sounds like they will stick with David for the World Test Championship (final) at The Oval. And if that's the way Australia are thinking about the World Test Championship, then yes, they have to start with him for the Ashes."

Chebet and Obiri dominate Boston Marathon

Evans Chebet retained his Boston Marathon men's title in two hours five minutes and 54 seconds and fellow Kenyan Hellen Obiri won the women's race in 2:21:38 but world record-holder and twice Olympic men's champion Eliud Kipchoge finished sixth. Tanzanian Gabriel Geay finished 10 seconds behind Chebet while Kenya's Benson Kipruto, the champion in 2021, took third spot in 2:06:06. Ethiopian Amane Beriso finished 12 seconds behind Obiri and ahead of Israeli Lonah Salpeter.

FIA rejects Ferrari's appeal against Sainz penalty

The FIA has rejected an attempt by Ferrari to overturn a penalty which cost Carlos Sainz Jr. fourth place at the Australian Grand Prix. Sainz was given a five-second penalty for crashing into Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso just after a restart. The race finished on a safety car lap, so the time penalty pushed Sainz down to last of the 12 finishers and he scored no points.

BENGALURU LOCALS

Yadwad scores FC Bengaluru's both goals

Irfan Yadwad scored a brace as FC Bengaluru United beat Bengaluru FC 2-0 in a Group-C match of the 2nd Division I-League qualifiers here on Tuesday. FCBU is top of the table with 14 points from seven games.

The result:

FC Bengaluru United 2 (Irfan Yadwad 58, 84) bt Bengaluru FC 0.

Yash stars in MSRIT's big victory

N. Yash top-scored with an unbeaten 95 as MSRIT thrashed EWIT by 219 runs in the M.S. Ramaiah All India inter-engineering colleges cricket tournament here on Tuesday.

The scores:

MSRIT 296/5 in 24 overs (N. Yash 95 n.o., P. Sumukh 65, Vishnu 56) bt EWIT 77 in 18.2 overs (S. Amey 3/24).

ATRIA IT 139 in 28.3 overs (Aditya S. Gowda 44, Nakul 31, Jasir Ahmed 3/17, P. Harinachiappan 3/21) lost to NHCE 140/1 in 18.1 overs (S. Naveen 52 n.o., A. Jasir 42, Harish 30 n.o.).

Aarya's 91 drives Tejal Shiraguppi CA's win

Aarya Raj's 91-run knock helped Tejal Shiraguppi Cricket Academy defeat Just Cricket by one wicket in the Tiger Cup U-12 cricket tournament here on Tuesday.

The scores:

Just cricket 172/7 (K. Raghav 49, Lokesh Reddy 25) lost to Tejal Shiraguppi Cricket Academy 173/9 (Aarya Raj 91).

Santhosh nets two as BCYA-B cruises

Santhosh scored a brace as BCYA-B blanked New Ashoka HC 6-0 in the Travancore Cup hockey tournament here on Tuesday.

The results:

Ideal Sports Academy-B 2 (Hari Krishnan 41, P. Giri 45) bt Decathlon Hockey 1 (Roshan Somaiah 19); BCYA-B 6 (Vikas 8, Santhosh 12, 24, Rineeth Cariappa 16, Sam 34, Sunil 37) bt New Ashoka HC 0.

LIVE TELECAST

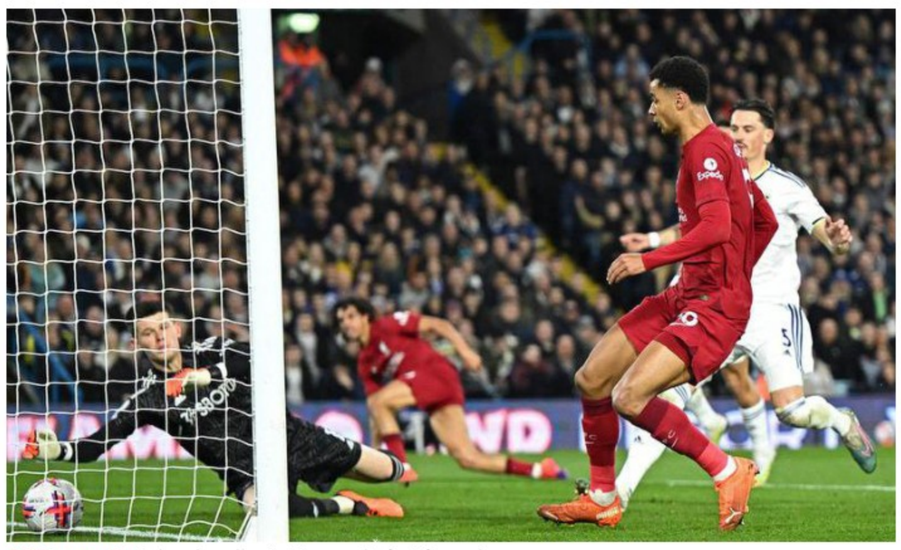
NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 a.m.
World Chess championship: FIDE & *Chess.com YouTube* channels, 2.30 p.m. onwards
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Super Cup football: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Liverpool runs amok against Leeds firing in six goals

The Reds' opening goal comes on the heels of a controversial decision by VAR not to review a handball in the build-up; Atalanta slips up in bid to reach the top four in Serie A

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LEEDS



Off the mark: Gakpo bundles in Liverpool's first from close range. AFP

Liverpool crushed Leeds 6-1 as Cody Gakpo's controversial opener provided the spark for the Reds' first win in five Premier League games on Monday.

Jurgen Klopp's side took the lead at Elland Road when Gakpo's goal was allowed to stand despite the ball striking Trent Alexander-Arnold's arm in the build-up.

It was reported the VAR official did not check the incident because it happened too far back in the move, but Leeds was furious at the perceived injustice.

Rubbing salt

Mohamed Salah rubbed salt into Leeds' wounds when he increased Liverpool's lead four minutes later before Luis Sinisterra got one back for the struggling hosts.

Diogo Jota's double, another Salah strike and Darwin Nunez's late effort ensured Liverpool ended its five-game winless run in all competitions.

After coming within a whisker of winning a quadruple last season, Liverpool has been reduced to scrambling to reach next season's Europa League or Europa Conference League, with the Champions League seemingly out of reach.

With that target in mind, the eighth-placed Reds are now within two points of seventh-placed Brighton.

Atalanta slipped in its bid to reach next season's Champions League after being held 1-1 at Fiorentina in Serie A on Monday.

Gian Piero Gasperini's side had the chance to move level on points with fifth-placed Inter Milan with a win in Florence and looked good after Joakim Maehle poked the away side ahead eight minutes before the break.

But Arthur Cabral earned Fiorentina a point and extended his team's unbeaten record to 14 matches by rolling home a 56th-minute penalty following Rafael Toloi's handball.

The results: Premier League: Leeds 1 (Sinisterra 47) lost to Liverpool 6 (Gakpo 35, Salah 39, 64, Jota 52, 73, Nunez 90).
Serie A: Fiorentina 1 (Cabral 56-pen) drew with Atalanta 1 (Maehle 37).

Jayasuriya spins Sri Lanka to victory

IRELAND IN SL

Associated Press
GALLE

Jayasuriya. AFP

Sri Lanka defeated Ireland by an innings and 280 runs inside three days of the first Test and recorded its biggest victory margin on Tuesday.

Ireland lost 13 wickets on the day to be all out for 143 and 168 in reply to Sri Lanka's 591 for six declared.

Prabath Jayasuriya led the Sri Lankans with a 10-wicket haul, taking the last wicket of the match when he trapped Ben White for 1 soon after Tea. Jayasuriya took three for 56 in the second innings after a career-best seven for 52 in the first.

Ramesh Mendis had the best figures in the second innings of four for 76 and a match haul of five wickets. Mendis equalled Dilruwan Perera in becoming the fastest Sri Lankan to 50 wickets in 11 matches.

Seamer Vishwa Fernando took the other four wickets, including opener Murray Commins for a pair.

The win surpassed Sri Lanka's previous highest victory margin of an innings and 254 runs against Zimbabwe in 2004.

The scores: Sri Lanka 591/6 decl. in 131 overs bt Ireland 143 in 52.3 overs (Lorcan Tucker 45, Prabath Jayasuriya 7/ 52) & 168 in 54.1 overs (Harry Tector 45, Ramesh Mendis 4/76, Prabath Jayasuriya 3/56). **PoM**: P. Jayasuriya.

Sri Lanka won by an innings & 280 runs to lead the two-match series 1-0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FIXTURES

Bayern Munich vs Manchester City, Inter Milan vs Benfica 12.30 a.m. (Thursday).

ONGC men and Indian Oil women stay on course

TABLE TENNIS

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

In spite of hitting a minor road-block, ONGC and Indian Oil stayed on course for the title-clashes in the men and women sections of the 41st Petroleum inter-unit table tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

After the completion of the league, the men's team semifinal line-up left ONGC facing Hindustan Petroleum and Indian Oil up against Oil India.

In the women's semifinals, defending champion Indian Oil will play Hindustan Petroleum and ONGC meets Oil India.

On this day, National champion G. Sathiyan and former women's National champion Mouma Das lost while Sharath Kamal just managed to survive.

Sathiyan lost in five sets to Ankur Bhattacharya and Sharath prevailed over Adarsh Om Chetri in four sets in a match that went the distance.

The seasoned Mouma Das also suffered an unexpected straight-set defeat to Munmun Kundu while her team, Oil India, expectedly prevailed over Hindustan Petroleum.

In what was seen as a rehearsal of the women's team final, Indian Oil packed off ONGC 3-1.

The results (team championship):
Men: ONGC bt OIL 3-1 (G. Sathiyan lost to Ankur Bhattacharya 11-6, 7-11, 8-11, 11-6, 8-11; Harmeet Desai bt Agniv Bhaskar Gohan 7-11, 12-10, 11-4, 11-7; A. Amalraj bt Anol Kashyap 11-7, 11-5, 11-4; Harmeet bt Ankur 11-4, 9-11, 11-9, 11-1).

Indian Oil bt HPCL 3-0 (Manav Thakkar bt Divyansh Srivastava 11-4, 11-8, 11-8; Sharath Kamal bt Adarsh Om Chetri 9-11, 13-15, 11-8, 14-12, 11-6; Priyanuj Bhattacharya bt Khelenderjit 11-6, 11-8, 11-7).

Women: Indian Oil bt ONGC 3-1 (Archana Kamath bt Ankita Das 11-7, 11-3, 11-5; Reeth Rishya lost to Divya Deshpande 11-13, 7-11, 8-11; Krittwika Sinha Roy bt Pooja Sahasrabudhe 11-8, 11-6, 11-5; Archana bt Divya 11-5, 11-9, 11-8).

OIL bt HPCL 3-1 (Yashaswini Ghorpade bt Radhika Sakpal 6-11, 11-5, 11-3, 11-8); Mouma Das lost to Munmun Kundu 9-11, 9-11, 6-11; Trisha Gogoi bt Sangita Javdekar 11-2, 11-2, 11-1; Yashaswini bt Munmun 11-5, 11-4, 11-6).

Jyothi equals world record set by Sara Lopez

ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

Seasoned archer V. Jyothi Surekha achieved a world record equaling performance of 713 points to top the compound women's individual rankings on the opening day of the Archery World Cup Stage-1 in Antalya, Turkey, on Tuesday.

Jyothi, who collected 353 after shooting her first half of 36 arrows, raised her game to score a perfect 360 in the last half of her round.

Bulls eye

Her effort included 66 shots that hit either 10 or the 'bull's eye.'

With her career best total, Jyothi equaled Colombian World champion Sara Lopez's 2015 World record of 713. It was also a new Asian record (previous 709, Chaewon So, Korea, 2017).

Jyothi displaying her effort.
TWITTER/WORLDARCHERY

Aditi Goswami (700), Avneet Kaur (699) and Sakshi Chaudhary (694) took 15th, 19th and 26th spots respectively.

Taking top spot

The Indian women's team was ranked No.1 with 2112. It was tied with Mexico on points but claimed the first position because of shooting more 10s (India 79, Mexico 72).

In the men's section, 17th-placed Ojas Deotale (709, 16) was the best among the Indians. He was followed by Rajat Chauhan (706), Prathamesh Jawkar (706) and Rishabh Yadav (704) at 29th, 30th and 38th slots respectively.

The Indian men's team was sixth with 2121 points. The mixed team placed second with 1422.

In defence of defence – played right, it can be a sexy shot too

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

One of the finest shots I saw on a cricket field came off the bat of Sunil Gavaskar. The bowler was Imran Khan who was fast and had been troubling Indian batsmen series after series. The venue was Chennai where that India-Pakistan Test was played.

Imran's delivery rose sharply, and so too in a sense did the batsman who moved beautifully into line back and across, stood tiptoe, met the ball in the top half of the bat and dropped it at his feet. I can't remember if Imran applauded, but from outside the boundary, a handful of spectators did.

I was in the media box where we didn't do such things, but in my mind I saluted Gavaskar. That backfoot defence was comparable to anything the attacking player of the day, Viv Richards had hit. Both defence and attack can be sexy, and speak of the batter's control.

A decade and more earlier, as a schoolboy cricketer, I watched fascinated as Alvin Kallicharan of the West Indies played the Indian spinners Bhagwat Chandrasekhar, Erapalli Prasanna and Srinivas Venkatraghavan dead in defence on a soft wicket in Bengaluru.

Eknath Solkar, with his prehensile grasp was waiting at short leg for a mistake, for the one ball the batsman could not keep down, but it never came. Kallicharan made a classic century, the best of three in a match where Gordon Greenidge and Clive Lloyd too hit hundreds. Lloyd's was all power and vigour.

A shot of the past?

Watching batsmen in the IPL strike the ball with startling power and hit sixes while off balance and with such confidence, one wonders if the day of the defensive player is past. Cheteshwar Pujara might be the last in a line India has produced, a line stretching back to Vijay Merchant through Rahul Dravid and Gavaskar. And not just that.

The day of the great defensive shot might also be past, batters deciding that defence is merely the last resort of a technique based on attack.

In the last year or so, it has been wonderful watching the so-called 'Baz-ball' style of cricket played by England, full of batters who create strokes and runs out of deliveries that might have been defended a generation back.

Perhaps the mentality owes something to T20 cricket which is a sport of the possible; perhaps it owes much to the temperament of the captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum.

It has seen more matches ending in victories and defeats. The draw has been virtually eliminated from the team's vocabulary.

Will England be able to bat through five sessions to draw a Test match? We will know when the Ashes series begins in June. Man to man, England have the better team, and in home conditions and given their recent record must begin favourites. Yet should Australia push them into a corner and batting for survival is the need of the hour, how will England cope? They have the batsmen, certainly, with Joe Root among the finest there has been. But it's a question of mentality. Somehow, defensive batters find it easier to attack than attacking batters to defend.

Counter-attack

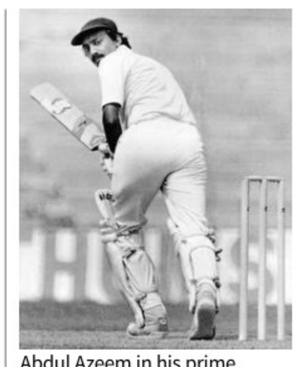
When the West Indies carried a truckload of fast bowlers who were a danger to life and limb in the 70s and 80s, defending was not really an option. Everybody has a plan till they are punched in the mouth, said the heavyweight champion Mike Tyson. Something similar could be said about plans against Malcolm Marshall. Andy Roberts, Mike Holding, Patrick Patterson and others. The best response, many batters felt, was to attack and score as many runs as quickly as possible before that inevitable ball on the stumps or body. It was a technique even the great Don Bradman used against Bodyline – counter-attack was the best defence.

To defend or attack is a question that has sometimes been given a moral tinge. This is nonsense.

It depends on the circumstances and needs of the team, apart from the batsman's own temperament. But you cannot play any format of the game for long without a healthy mixture of the two in your arsenal.

It is rarely that spectators remember a defensive stroke, while the ones that send the ball sailing over the boundary are easily recalled.

But when the latter is the more common, it is sometimes fun to think back to the one that didn't get away into the stands.



Abdul Azeem in his prime.
THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Hyderabad's Abdul Azeem passes away

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's Abdul Azeem, one of the finest openers in domestic cricket, passed away in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Azeem, who was on dialysis for some time, was 62 and is survived by wife and two daughters.

Azeem had to his credit a triple century (303 n.o.) against Tamil Nadu in the 1986 Ranji season.

In 73 first-class games between 1980-95, the dashing opener scored 4644 runs and had 12 centuries and 18 fifties to his name.